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SEPTEMBER 5 : TEACHER'S DAY

'Sow great ideals, social consciousness in the minds of students'

Teacher's Day Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 04.09.2017 (English Translation).

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan started his life as a teacher who opens the eyes of intelligence of students, rose to be the President of the Indian Republic, discharged his responsibilities efficiently and brought great honour to the teaching community. I extend my good wishes to all those who are celebrating September 5, the birth anniversary of Dr. Radhakrishnan as Teacher's Day.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma framed many welfare schemes for students like free education, free bus passes, bicycles, laptops and text books for achieving the lofty ideal of 'Education for all' and for providing school children the best education without any break. As these schemes are being implemented effectively, Tamil Nadu has become the Premier State in education in the Country. This is borne out by the increasing number of students enrolling in educational institutions year after year.

The Tamil Nadu Government, which functions in the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is carrying out schemes in an excellent way keeping the interest of teachers in mind. These include honouring teachers with the 'Dr. Radhakrishnan Award' as well as filling up teacher vacancies and implementing different welfare schemes for teachers. It is the teachers who are engaged in the noble task of impressing upon students, who are the hope of the Country, the importance of education and shaping them into good citizens.

I congratulate all the teachers who received the 'Best Teacher' Award on this good day. I request the teachers to put in their best towards imparting education and sow great ideals and social consciousness in the minds of students. Once again I convey my Teacher's Day greetings to all. ■

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This is a Government that is implementing welfare schemes in the footsteps of Amma. A Government that works solely for the welfare of the people. This is your Government. A Government fostering your welfare.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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- Variety of schemes for Tiruppur District directly address its manifold needs 5
- Manifold schemes for Perambalur District 14
- Carved out by Amma, Villupuram District gets slew of developmental schemes 21
- Rs.115 crore works to be executed for Cuddalore Port 30
- Amma's Government takes up manifold welfare schemes in Ariyalur District 41
- 12 new schemes worth Rs.37.74 crore declared open at Tiruvarur MGR celebrations 52
- Subsidized sugar sought for all priority households.. 63

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Centenary Celebrations on 03.09.2017 at Ponneri in Tiruvallur District, released the special postage stamp of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Centenary Celebrations. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. O. Panneerselvam** received it.

Variety of schemes for Tiruppur District directly address its manifold needs

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. centenary celebrations at Tiruppur on 22.07.2017 (English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal, who has delivered the presidential address at the centenary celebration function of Ponmana Chemmal Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R., the ever shining star of the cine world and the God for the poor, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M.Thambidurai, Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Development and Son of this Soil Thiru. Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Forest Thiru. Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation Thiru.Sellur K.Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Electricity Thiru. P.Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development Thiru. S.P.Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Finance Thiru.D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Law Thru. C.Ve.Shanmugam, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P.Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Dr.V.Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. M.C.Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru. K.C.Karuppanan, Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R.Kamaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms Thiru. O.S.Manian, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Thiru. R.B.Udhayakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, Government Chief Whip Thiru.S.Rajendran, Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikkannu,

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism Thiru. Vellamandi N.Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes Thiru. K.C.Veeramani, Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. K.T.Rajenthrabhalaji, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin, Hon'ble Minister for Labour Welfare Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Dr. M. Manikandan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Hon'ble Minister for Khadi Thiru. G.Baskaran, Hon'ble Minister for HR & CE Thiru. Sevvoor S.Ramachandran, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Tmt. S.Valarmathi, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. P.Balakrishna Reddy, Hon'ble Special Representative for Tamil Nadu at New Delhi Thiru.N.Thalavai Sundaram, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Chairman of Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaithiyanathan who has welcomed the gathering, the District Collector Dr. K.S.Palanisamy who is to propose a vote of thanks, former Minister Thiru. M.S.M.Anandan, MPs and MLAs who delivered the felicitation address, the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, media friends, respected elders, Ladies, youth, students –at the outset I offer my greetings to you.

I consider it as my great fortune, bestowed by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's blessings, to participate in the centenary celebration function of Dr. M.G.R. in this historic Tiruppur soil where 'Kodi Kaattha' Kumaran was born.

Tiruppur people are hard workers. Tiruppur is called a mini Japan. While 'no vacancy' board is more a rule than an exception in all the cities in India, the opposite is true of Tiruppur. Hard workers are definite to get job in Tiruppur.

Tiruppur has many distinctions. Industries and commerce abound here. Particularly the knitted wear production is high. That was why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma employed the zero tolerance technology to treat the dyeing units' effluents and solved the problem that plagued the knitting industry for several years. None of you can forget that textile workers, farmers and the general public in

knitted wear got a new lease of life on account of the intelligent handling of the issue by Hon'ble Amma.

Likewise, if one part is industrially advanced, road transport becomes very very important there. Taking this into account, Hon'ble Amma issued orders for construction of a flyover at a cost of Rs.43 crore on Meenkarai Salai for de-congesting traffic in Tiruppur town. The works will be completed before the end of this year.

Like Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, this Government following the footsteps of Amma has involvement and interest in Tiruppur and has implemented many welfare schemes from 16.02.2017 till date. On account of time constraint, I shall mention just a few schemes alone.

Co-operative bank loan waiver has benefited 27,205 micro and small farmers to the tune of Rs.145.57 crore; 6,41,119 families have benefited by the 100 unit free supply of electricity to domestic consumers; 14,322 laptops costing Rs.20,29,42,740/- have been distributed to school students; lab assistants have been appointed in 134 schools so far; 16 'Amma canteens' have been opened and are functioning well in feeding the poor; 519 green houses costing Rs.9.34 crore have been sanctioned under the Green House Programme for the poor families to have houses with solar panel. In the coming years, more schemes are to be implemented for Tiruppur since both Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma were affectionate towards the working class. In tune with Puratchi Thalaivar's song lines 'Odi Odi uzhaikkanum; oorukellam kodukkanum' (work tirelessly; distribute to the entire town), only the revenue earned through the workers could be utilized for the rest of the people. Wherever workers are, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. will be there. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s philosophical songs will reverberate in the hearts of workers. Even now, we can see their lips murmuring M.G.R.'s songs. Mostly Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. donned the role of a daily wage earner in films. He found a permanent place in the hearts of workers by portraying the roles of a mill worker in the film 'Koondukili', a labourer laying the road ('Thirudaadhae'), a cart puller ('Thozhilaali'), a wood cutter ('Aayirathil Oruvan'), a fisherman ('Padagotti' and 'Meenava Nanban'), an ironsmith ('Thani Piravi'), a motor mechanic ('Thaaikku Thalai Magan'), a de-silting person ('thoor vaarum thozhilaali') in 'Petraalthaan Pillaiyaa' film, a car driver ('Kaavalkaaran'), a stone cutter ('Oli Vilakku'), a cowherd ('Maattulkaara Velan'), a horse-cart driver ('En Annan'), a lorry driver ('Engal Thangam'), a newspaper

vendor, domestic help, gardener and a boot polisher ('Kumarikottam'), a rickshaw puller ('Rikshaakaaran'), a mahout ('Nalla Neram'), a tourist guide and a college bus driver ('Idhaya Veenai'), a sweeper ('Netru Indru Naalai'), a band player ('Ninaithadhai Mudippavan') and a cook in 'Needhikku Thalai Vanangu' film.

It is very evident that in modern times too where technology dominates, graduate youth listen with gusto to M.G.R.'s songs and get rejuvenated. That is why Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s films, 30 years after his demise, are renewed and screened, fetching a collection on par with the best films of today. This is a unique honour to him that no other actor can covet.

Globally, Puratchi Thalaivar was the first actor who used the cinema medium for people's welfare. The name and fame of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. will remain as long as the last man in Tamil Nadu lives and media like cinema remain. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. shaped his life on the lines of the roles he played in films and that is the reason for all his glory. Makkal Thilagam M.G.R. was a book of culture; acme of humanism; a store-house of love; a source of peace; a repository of policies; the benchmark for philanthropy and a guardian of affection. Indeed he is another wonder.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was not an individual; he was the culmination of crore and crore of hearts. When he laughed, crores and crores of hearts laughed; the whole Tamil Nadu obeyed if he gestured with a finger. Our 'Friend of the poor' M.G.R., who had true interest in people's welfare, removed their distress just by a glance.

An example can be cited here on the affection people bore for Makkal Thilagam. He was injured in the throat when he was shot at. Thereafter, he could not talk as of old. In those days, one of the important talents to mark an actor was his vocal prowess. But people accepted wholly the defective voice of our Puratchi Thalaivar. They patronized him more than ever. This is an impossibility for any other artiste.

If Makkal Thilagam touched the peak of fame in film world, he touched the peak of achievements in politics. Drawn by Arignar Anna, Makkal Thilakam joined the Dravidian Movement. Later, he became Arignar Anna's 'Idayakkani'.

After Anna, the party and Government changed hands. Our Ponmana Chemmal was expelled from the party for seeking accounts from the party leadership.

People came uninvited and surrounded him. They showered affection on him and raised their voice in his support. He shed tears of joy inwardly on seeing the ocean of people. Puratchi Nadigar became Puratchi Thalaivar.

He started a political party in the name of Anna and developed it in just five years against severe oppression. He captured power in 1977 and implemented several historic and visionary schemes to the admiration of the entire world till he ruled Tamil Nadu in 1987. There was no match to Makkal Thilakam in implementing a scheme immediately, once he was convinced it would benefit the poor, overcoming odds – administrative or of paucity of funds – or whatever it be. An example can be cited here.

In 1980, he became the Chief Minister for the second time. He consulted officials over the implementation of the Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme. "It will cost several crore of rupees.

Government has no money to that extent", said the officials.

"Is there no money or is there no inclination. I don't know economics. But I know about poverty, the severity of hunger. I will mobilize the funds, however much the scheme may cost", replied Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. firmly. He did what he said, mobilized the funds in several ways and implemented the scheme. Nutritious Meals Scheme is the greatest among all of M.G.R.'s schemes. Even today, it is the most popular scheme. The Nutritious Meals Scheme introduced by Puratchi Thalaivar to remove the hunger of school children, I consider, may have inspired Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in later days, to set up "Amma Canteens" to remove the hunger of the poor and the labour population. It is well known the Amma Canteen scheme, too, is equally popular as that of the Nutritious Meals Scheme. I am proud to say at this hour that other States also are implementing such a scheme taking Amma Canteen scheme as a model. People appreciate heartily and hail Amma as Goddess Annapoorni, serving food to the poor.

The hardships Dr. M.G.R. suffered in his early life, the struggles he faced induced him to bring in schemes in succession. He designed the schemes with a view that his people should not undergo the difficulties he had suffered. All his schemes were poor and worker centric. I can mention a few schemes started by Makkal Thilakam M.G.R. and later on taken up and implemented excellently by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Marriage assistance to widows and destitute women, gold for 'thaali', service centres for women, working women hostels, child-mother care centres, free dhoti-saree scheme, free electricity to huts – we can go on listing.

It is the party volunteers who acted as a great bridge between the many schemes brought in by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the down trodden beneficiaries. It is so, because both of them reared the volunteers as their own children and directly under their supervision.

Duty, Dignity and Discipline were nurtured in Governance as life breath; like army soldiers, party volunteers worked, taking the instructions of the Leadership as 'Taraka Mantram' - sacred

and beyond appeal. If AIADMK is an iron fortress even today, its unshakeable steel walls are its cadres. This cannot be disputed.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was a model in the matter of obeying the Leadership. Party cadres obeyed the commands of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Both Dr. M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma defined how a cadre and a leader should conduct themselves in their respective spheres. Positions will come searching after party volunteers if they obey their leadership as Makkal Thilakam M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma did. I wish to state that the time for taking over several responsibilities is maturing. I am reminded of a parable when I am advising you on obedience to leadership.

There was a pigeon colony on a temple tower with a leader protecting all the other pigeons. On a particular day, all the pigeons were busy, as usual, searching for food. But the leader pigeon was missing. With great distress, they were searching for their leader all day and returned home without success. At that time, the leader returned to the surprise of all other pigeons. They asked him the reason for his absence. He replied: Yesterday, as I was searching for food in the temple complex, I happened to overhear a conversation among temple authorities. They were talking about cleaning the temple tower before painting it for the consecration of the temple. They may start the work the next day itself. As we may be affected by their action, I went away in search of dwelling place for us, as a precautionary measure. I have selected a big banyan tree in the nearby forest. That will be a safe place for us and we can settle there. The other pigeons applauded the leader's selfless action.

The next morning, all the pigeons migrated to the banyan tree in the forest. The leader pigeon called other pigeons and addressed them as follows: 'All these days you were living in the temple tower itself and had not fashioned a nest of your own. Now, a necessity has arisen for building a nest. Don't worry about that. If we build separate nests for each one of us, forest animals and big birds may cause us distress. Hence we can build one nest by co-ordinated efforts and live together'. The leader's suggestion was endorsed and the pigeons built the nest in a day and started living happily there.

As if an 'evil eye' has been cast on their happiness, an incident took place the next day. Before the pigeons set out for their search of food, the leader came out of the nest and surveyed whether any danger was lurking. Very near the banyan tree a big vulture was sitting and looking intensively at the nest. The leader pigeon retreated fast and informed the other pigeons that a vulture was waiting outside to prey upon them. "Don't move out without instructions from me. I will manage the vulture" So saying, it set out in the direction of the vulture.

At a hearing distance of the vulture, the leader pigeon said: "The fruit has slipped into milk; fortunately, my task has become simple". " What task has become simple and what are you lamenting about", asked the vulture. The leader pigeon said: 'Nothing; as usual , the migratory bird 'Maapoli' has come to our forest, this year also. It likes only the vulture's meat and each time when it comes, it devours at least 10 vultures. It will catch hold of a bird to lead it to the den of the vultures. Unfortunately, it seized me this year to guide it". The shocked vulture asked with anxiety where the vulture was now. "It is resting in my nest. If I tell about your presence here, it will immediately come out and catch you. My task also will become easy", so saying, it flew towards its nest. "Hold on; I will escape from here and go away very far; I will never come back this side" said the vulture and flew away. The leader pigeon narrated the encounter to other pigeons and said if we had remained separately, we would not have escaped from the vulture. The other pigeons praised the leader and said they could escape because they were in the same nest as suggested by the leader.

Both Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi were like the leader pigeon. They protected the party by bringing it under one leadership without getting scattered. Following their example, the one-and-a-half crore party cadres should remain united as the pigeons of the same nest alluded to in the story. Hon'ble Amma has entrusted the party to us. And we should take a pledge to prove her words: "This All India Anna DMK will remain for more than a century after me".

In this pleasant function, I am extremely happy to lay the foundation for new schemes of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, costing Rs.207.37 crore, in declaring open buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.13.24 crore for the Departments, School Education, Revenue, Agriculture, Town Panchayat and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments. I am also very happy to distribute welfare assistance to the value of Rs.219,99,60,000/- to 21,099 persons.

During her regime, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma inaugurated the Athikadavu-Avinasi scheme for the benefit of Tiruppur District people and for the prosperity of farmers. Amma Government which follows the footsteps of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has allotted Rs.250 crore for this scheme.

This Athikadavu-Avinasi scheme is a wonderful scheme which will benefit the farmers in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode. The scheme needs 1.5 tmc ft. of water. Groundwater will be recharged by pumping water from 250 wells continuously for 70 days and filling up the PWD lakes in 9 Taluks, 41 lakes and 630 tank and ponds. Two alternative proposals were mooted for this

scheme. On a scrutiny over which of these proposals can be easily and expeditiously executed, it has been decided, I am happy to say, to pump water from Kalingarayan area near Bhavani and implement the scheme. The Government has allotted Rs.1,516 crore for this scheme. The scheme can be implemented wholly by the State. For the earlier scheme, Central Government permission is needed. Implementation of this scheme will take 7 or 8 years. But the latter one can be implemented in 30 months. Before December this year, tenders will be floated for these works. I am happy that a scheme for which foundation was laid when Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was ruling the State, will be inaugurated under Amma Government's rule to benefit the farmers of three Districts.

There is another representation from dear brother Thiru. Velumani of Coimbatore District, dear friend Thiru. Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. Pollachi V.Jayaraman, from the MPs and MLAs of the Districts of Tiruppur and Coimbatore, front-ranking leaders of the party and farmers. As these two Districts abound in coconut cultivation, they want that 'neera' tapping from coconut tree be permitted. The announcement should pertain to coconut tree, they say. The 'neera' tapping is a good scheme. It will increase farmers' income several folds. If the annual income through a coconut tree is Rs.1,000/- now, it will go up at least to Rs.5,000/- through 'neera' tapping as and when it is implemented.

Hence, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is farmer's Government. It is the only Government that fulfils the aspirations of farmers.

Agriculture is depending more and more on fertilizers. Even then, production is not high. We are not able to get produce in a natural way. Taking this into account, an order was issued, in consultation with the senior Ministers here, permitting farmers to dredge water bodies and use the sediments as fertilizer in their fields. Today, sediments are dredged throughout the State. In the first phase, we gave Rs.100 crore to desilt 1,509 lakes. I inaugurated the work in Kancheepuram District and in

District headquarters, the respective District Minister started the works. The works are about to be completed. Now, steps have been taken to desilt 2,065 lakes at a cost of Rs.300 crore. The dredging of tanks deepens them, increasing their storage capacity and conserving the entire quantum of the rain waters. Thus, I am happy to say, Amma's Government has taken measures to increase agricultural production.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has been announcing many schemes like roads, bridges and colleges. A severe drought, not seen in the last 140 years, has hit the State. There is no rain. There is no water even for drinking. However, much Government framed schemes and allotted funds for the purpose, the ground water level has gone down more than 1,000 feet deep. The present situation is to tap water 1,000 feet below the ground and supply the water. The rain fall is just 38 per cent. In such a situation, Amma's Government has seen to it that there is no water supply problem in Tamil Nadu, by allotting more funds.

Likewise, all the schemes announced by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma under Rule 110 are getting implemented. Through this rule, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave innumerable schemes to the people. If Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated Rule 110, people became happy. During the Assembly sessions, people eagerly scanned newspapers to see what were the new announcements and whether anything pertaining to their area has been announced. Several wonderful schemes to uplift the standard of living of people and to provide basic facilities to people were announced under Rule 110 and implemented. Amma's Government, treading the path of Amma has also made many announcements under Rule 110. All these announcements will be implemented.

Ministers on the dais, MPs and MLAs want release of water in channels and rivers as the level in Amaravathy river is gradually rising. Amma's Government, I am happy to say, will examine the request kindly and carry this out also.

Drinking water supply is a big issue today. While in power, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma got us water of Cauvery river. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the only leader who got for us legal rights on Cauvery waters by waging battles in Courts. Cauvery is the only major river in Tamil Nadu. Our irrigation and water supply depend on this Cauvery river. Last year, Mettur dam became dry on account of the severe drought. Water was not released either for drinking water purposes or for irrigation. A case is pending before the Supreme Court for the constitution of Cauvery Management Board. With the blessings of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I wish to state that we will win the case and justice will be meted out to us.

My good wishes to the beneficiaries to get all the best in life.

I thank all the good hearts who have made excellent arrangements for this pleasant function.

Yesterday was ours! Today is ours! Tomorrow will also be ours!

Vazhga Anna Naamam,

Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh,

Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's rule.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Manifold schemes for Perambalur District carved out by Amma herself

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Centenary Celebrations held at Perambalur on 05.08.2017 (English Translations).

I bow to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am very happy and proud to participate and meet you all at the centenary celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal who has delivered a special and presidential address at this great function, Rajya Sabha Member Thiru. Vaithilingam, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Thiru.Venkatesan who has delivered the welcome address, Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Dindigul Sreenivasan, Thiru. Sengottaiyan, Thiru. Sellur Raju, Thiru. Thangamani, Thiru. Velumani, Thiru, C.Ve.Shanmugam, Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan, Dr. V.Saroja, Thiru. M.C. Sampath, Thiru. K.C.Karuppanan, Thiru. R. Kamaraj, Thiru.O.S.Manian, Thiru. Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, Thiru. R. Doraikkannu, Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Thiru.R.B.Udhayakumar, Thiru. Vellamandi N. Natarajan, Thiru. P. Benjamin, Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Dr. M. Manikandan, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thiru. G. Baskaran, Thiru.Sevvoor S.Ramachandran, Tmt. S. Valarmathi and Thiru.P. Balakrishna Reddy, Government Chief Whip Thiru.

Rajendran, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. P. Valarmathi, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, District Collector Tmt.V. Santha who is to propose a vote of thanks, Members of Parliament, Legislative Assembly, party cadres, the backbone of the party, Government staff, media friends, respected elders, youth, students, ladies and beneficiaries of welfare measures.

At the outset, my respects to all of you.

Perambalur District has many distinctions. It is also a spiritual centre, having many pilgrim spots like Siruvachur Arulmigu Mathura Kaaliamman temple and Chettikulam Baladhandayuthapani temple. There are many tourist spots also in the District like Ranjankudi Kottai, Sathanur Kalmaram (stone tree). Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma framed many schemes to uplift the District which is special in many ways, to the level of other Districts in the economic sphere.

Hon'ble Amma had a special affinity to and sympathy for Perambalur District. There is a reason for it. Though Tamils all over the world called Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi as "Amma" and she remains as the incomparable Mother for the whole of Tamil Nadu, she was the Mother who brought into being the Perambalur District. It was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who carved out Perambalur District from Tiruchi District on Nov.1, 1995. She was the first Tamil Nadu Chief Minister who visited Perambalur District. The District acquired a new sheen only after Hon'ble Amma's golden feet touched its soil. It started progressing in agriculture and in the industrial sector. It is my duty to mention some of the schemes undertaken for Perambalur District in Hon'ble Amma's rule, particularly in the last six years.

The extent of Perambalur District is 1,75,736 hectares. A majority in the District is agricultural labour. Hence, the District depends on agriculture. That is why, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took greater interest on this District and implemented many schemes. I wish to point out a few of them.

Perambalur District is a premier District in the cultivation of small onion. It is grown in about 20,000 acres in the District. Taking this into account and for the development of small onion farmers, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma inaugurated the Chettikulam Onion Commercial Complex on 27.06.2014. Till now, 2.243 tonnes of small onion transactions, valued at Rs.4.39 crore, have taken place in this commercial complex, benefiting 10,348 farmers.

Under the Poultry Development Scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government set up, from 2012-2013, 350 broiler poultry farms and 215 farms of native variety poultry in Perambalur District. The Government subsidy for this was Rs.8.74 crore.

This Amma Government has completed many schemes, started on the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and in Perambalur District alone, buildings constructed for various Departments at a cost of Rs.85.69 crore were declared open in March last. Particularly, a dairy farm with modern technological facilities and a handling capacity of one lakh litres of milk per day was declared open at Padalur at a cost of Rs.36.28 crore.

Now, a value adding centre for small onion has been set up at the Chettikulam Commercial Complex at a cost of Rs.70 lakh and it will start functioning from this month end. This will help producer-farmers of maize and small onion in Perambalur District to convert small onion into a value added product and earn higher profits.

High school buildings, constructed at a cost of Rs.4,82,43,000/- are to be declared open today. Also, foundation stone has been laid today for construction of buildings, costing Rs.11,44,48,000/- in Kunnam and Alathur Taluks for the Department of School Education and for sub-treasury offices. Welfare schemes, costing Rs.77,41,94,834/- and benefiting 9,102 persons have been distributed today.

This Government is ready to implement many more schemes for the Perambalur District, which is located at the mid-point of Tamil Nadu. The centenary celebration of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is being held here grandly so as to instill a new hope in you and rejuvenate you all. This centenary celebration is held District-wise by the Government so that the present generation youth and children can get educated on the life history of Hon'ble

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., the path he traversed, the achievements he recorded and the schemes he formulated for the poor.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., through his song posed the question - 'Crores of people lived and died; who lives in the hearts of the people?'. He remains as the answer for the question he poses. Of the very few who have etched a permanent place in the hearts of people despite the passage of time, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. is one.

Elders are still there in rural areas who will reply "I voted for M.G.R." if a question is posed to them during the election time. There are old people, even today, who will say - 'dhoti and saree given by Maharaasan M.G.R.' - after receiving the Government-given free dhoti and saree. After M.G.R., Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma descended on Tamil Nadu as a female M.G.R. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma superbly implemented the schemes designed by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar during his rule.

On the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma also implemented many pioneering schemes and carved a permanent niche for herself in the hearts of the people. These two great leaders are a boon to Tamil Nadu by the grace of God. Opposition parties too will endorse this.

The services rendered to people as cine stars before their entry into politics, shaped Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi as people's leaders. Hypocrisy is unknown to them. With an open mind and a cheerful countenance, they toiled for the people without an iota of selfishness. They lived and died for the people. That is why they live forever in the hearts of people as if they have received a boon to exist even though they have shed their mortal coils.

No force can separate them from the hearts of people. As long as their memories live in the hearts of people, All India Anna DMK, as Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has said, will remain anchored even if a hundred years pass by.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was not a sudden phenomenon in politics. People of Tamil Nadu migrated into his all-embracing heart with love and affection. That is why we tend to think of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's heart as a Temple of Residence.

After becoming a popular actor, none of 'Makkal Thilagam's' pictures were released without special songs penned for his sake. Like a seer, he said in simple language in his film songs and dialogues what should be done to his people in future. Our oracular Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar stated long back thus: 'Future history will narrate our victory; if this army goes down, which will win?'.

Till now, none can outdo Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R's achievements as the monarch of the film world. Even in his cine life, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar had all the inherent qualities of a great leader. For the sake of vote bank politics, he did not acquire qualities artificially. Though many examples can be cited to testify

that service mindedness and philanthropy were his natural traits, I wish to recall only a few of them.

In his film career, Puratchi Thalaivar used to share the ups and downs in the lives of his peers. Actors too are the citizens of this Country. Puratchi Thalaivar helped in manifold ways several actors and actresses who, though wallowing in misery entertained fans in films. For many actors who faced economic crisis, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. acted in their films without receiving salary and brought contentment in their lives. He had acted free in the film 'Paithiakaaran' for Kalaivanar N.S.Krishnan, in 'Thaalibhaggiyam' for actress Kannamba, in 'Netru, Inru Naalai' for actor Asokan and in 'Navarathinam' for producer A.P.Nagarajan. By having such a selfless actor, a leader, Tamil Nadu flourished.

For Perarignar Anna, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar acted in the film 'Thaai Magalukku Kattiya Thaali'. Reason: Perarignar was a blemishless politician. Anna, a rationalist, convinced the people that politics was the backbone for a Country. Hence, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar toiled for him tirelessly.

Another incident: M.G.R.'s 'Appu bungalow' was behind the Venkatachalapathy temple in T.Nagar, Chennai. The bungalow place belonged to Thiru. V.K.Ramasamy. He sold it to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar for Rs.4 lakh in those days. After many years, its value shot up to several crore of rupees. But Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar called Thiru.V.K.Ramasamy and insisted that he should take back the place for the old price of Rs. 4 lakh even though it was worth several crore rupees. Thiru. V.K.Ramasamy became highly emotional at the nobility and magnanimity of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar.

I wish to mention a few instances of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's munificence before he entered politics. When floods devastated Chennai, Thanjavur and Madurai in the 1960s, he gave Rs.85,000/- as flood relief and presented Rs.1 lakh for purchase of rain coats to 5,000 rickshaw pullers. He also donated liberally to people in other States when they were hit by floods and earthquakes.

In 1970, he presented 200 bags of rice as flood relief to the affected people when St.Thomas Mount locality was flooded. I have just mentioned one per cent of what Makkal Thilakam gave as a relief measure. Time is short to mention the remaining 99 per cent of his assistance. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar would forget then and there the help he had rendered. These facts are the ones recorded by newspapers and writers. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar had never extended any assistance to anyone for publicity.

Thiru. Cho Ramasamy, actor and journalist once said this about Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in an interview: "It is wrong to say that M.G.R. is helping others for publicity. I have seen M.G.R helping others without any intent of publicity. He has helped those who were antagonistic to him in the film world". The hands that helped his colleagues extended to

help the whole of Tamil Nadu. It earned him the fame: 'one whose hands got flushed through giving'.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was the only Tamil actor to win the 'Bharath' and 'Bharatha Ratna' awards. Those who dream to be like Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar in cinema and politics should, in their public lives, help people. Whenever natural disasters and drought hit the Country, they should rush to extend a helping hand to people. They should spend a part of the money they have earned from the people.

Those who want to be a replica of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. should be prepared to undertake many sacrifices. Those whose only work is criticising others can never become an M.G.R. at any time.

There is only one M.G.R., not only for Tamil Nadu but for the entire world. Those who dream of becoming an M.G.R. will end up like the cat that scalded itself trying to turn itself into a tiger.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R was a wonder man who could not be defeated either in the cine field or in politics. Two thousand years back, philosopher Plato dreamt of an artist ruling the Country. It was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who realized that dream for the first time.

We can see only one sun and one moon in the sky. Likewise, there can be only one M.G.R. in this world.

To become a leader from being an actor, one should come to the domain of the people and work for them; one should partake of their

pleasures and pains. Then people will decide whether or not they can be elevated to the status of M.G.R. Those who cannot capture people's hearts can never capture Fort St.George.

"Puratchi Thalaivar's vision, efficient administration and leadership ushered in a golden age in Tamil Nadu" – certified members of Arizona University Trust.

Puratchi Thalaivar was a leader accepted by the people. He was a God to the poor, a friend to all, a garden to the good and a Tirukkural to chasten the wicked. Every member of the party should contemplate on the hard work Puratchi Thalaivar put in to form the All India Anna DMK party and put it in the saddle of power, the humiliations he suffered and the sacrifices he made.

Loyalty and sacrifice alone can protect this movement. A tale can reveal in a better way the nature of such loyalty and sacrifice.

A fire broke out suddenly in a green forest. All animals and birds that were living there started to leave to settle in another forest. God was looking at the exodus from above. One incident there surprised Him. A sparrow was relentlessly sprinkling water that it carried in its beak from a nearby small stream on the forest fire, unmindful of the hot Sun, to douse the fire. God went near the sparrow and said: "Sparrow! Your action is both ridiculous and sad. You are a small bird. Your beak can carry only a drop of water. By sprinkling water in this way, can you douse the fire?"

The sparrow did not respond but was active in its task. God asked again: 'Give me a reply'. The sparrow replied: " I was born in this forest, grew up in this forest and played in this forest. This forest gave me space to reside and food to live. By some Fate, it is now affected by a forest fire. Will it not be an act of ingratitude if I desert the forest and go to another? My duty is to sprinkle this water to the best of my ability".

Struck by the sparrow's sense of duty and gratitude, God said: "Sparrow, I am God. I appreciate your sense of gratitude. Ask for a boon".

The sparrow said, "Let this forest fire die out and the forest return to its original greenery". God granted the boon and the forest returned to its pristine beauty. The birds and animals that had left returned to the forest. I appeal to every cadre of the party to be like that sparrow in showing loyalty and in selfless sacrifice. I hope this story will fit in squarely with our partymen, known for their loyalty and sacrifice.

I congratulate and offer good wishes to partymen who toiled for this function, members of the general public, Government staff who co-operated in several ways, and the Police.

Yesterday was ours! Today is ours! Tomorrow also will be ours!

Vazhga Anna Naamam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh; Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's Rule.

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

Carved out by Amma, Villupuram District gets slew of developmental schemes

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Centenary function held at Villupuram on 09.08.2017(*English Translation*).

I bow before the Deity Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who is a personification of Love, storehouse of Power and one who remains in the hearts of the people for ever.

I am very happy and proud to participate in the centenary function of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R. held at Villupuram District and meet you all.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. Thambidurai who has delivered a special address in this great function, Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru. Dhanapal who has delivered the presidential address, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Courts and Prisons Thiru.C.Ve.Shanmugam, the Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information who has welcomed the gathering, Kallakurichi MP Dr. K. Kamaraj, Arani MP Thiru. V. Elumalai, Ulundurpet MLA Thiru. R. Kumaraguru, Kallakurichi MLA Thiru. A.Prabu, Vaanur MLA Thiru. M.Chakrapani, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal Dindigul Sreenivasan, Sengottaiyan, Sellur Raju, Thangamani, Velumani, Jayakumar, K.P.Anbalagan, Dr. V. Saroja, Thiruvalargal M.C.Sampath, K.C.Karuppanan, R.Kamaraj, O.S.Manian, Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, R. Doraikkannu, Kadambur Raju, R.P.Udhayakumar, Vellamandi N. Natarajan, K.C.Veeramani, K.T.Rajenthrabhalaji, P. Benjamin, Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Thiruvalargal M.R.Vijayabhaskar, M. Manikandan, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thiruvalargal G. Baskaran, Sevvoor S.Ramachandran, P. Balakrishna Reddy, Government Chief Whip Thiru. Rajendran, the Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation

Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Tamil Nadu Housing Board Chairman Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, the District Collector of Villupuram Dr. L. Subramanian, President of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Sugar Federation Thiru. K.G.P. Gnanamoorthy, office bearers of the Party Headquarters, former Ministers, former MPs, MLAs and Local Bodies representatives, office bearers of Co-operatives, party cadres who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, media friends, respected elders, ladies, youth, students and beneficiaries – at the outset I pay my respects to all of you.

When I want to talk about Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., I am bewildered over what to stress and which of his talents I should take up as the subject of speech. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was the 8th "Vallal" (philanthropist) who had conquered the 8 directions of the globe. Am I to talk about his entry to the dramastage at a school going age due to poverty? Or to his ascendancy to heights of fame in the cine world? Or about his success in politics, remaining as the king of kings, an irreplaceable Chief Minister and a symbol of Tamil Nadu's conquests? One can talk for months together about any aspect of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar. Like the 'Akshaya Paathram' that never gets emptied, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar's saga is full of rare information.

Puratchi Thalaivar's life is like a deep sea. If one dives into it, one can gather priceless lessons for one's life. In this year when Puratchi Thalaivar's centenary is celebrated, I have dived several times into Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s life history. I am eagerly waiting to dive 27 more times to speak in 27 Districts. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. lived in Tamil Nadu as a great leader, hitting headlines in newspapers for many years.

Some will study history; some will create history; very few will live as history; but, Puratchi Thalaivar was the only great man, sent by God to this Earth as history itself.

A part of a Thirukkural couplet states: 'Thondrin pugazhodu thoendruga' ('a birth should be a birth of fame'). This fits Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. so much that it looks as though the couplet was written keeping him in mind. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was born famous. If Puratchi Thalaivar appears in a crowd of lakhs of people, he will stand apart. Only his glory alone would be talked about there. His song 'Maaperum sabai thanil nee nadanthaal/ unakku maalaigal vizha vendum.

Oru maatru kuraiyaadha mannavan ivan enru potri pugazha vendum" (When you walk in great assemblies, garlands should be showered on you; all should praise you as the perfect king) testifies to his life.

Though Districts have their own distinctions, Villupuram District has a very great tradition. Scholars and wise men have adorned and glorified this District. Many scholars were born in Villupuram District which was known earlier as 'Vizhi Maa nagaram' and 'Nadu Naadu'. Great men like Sundaramoorthy Nayanar, who made Saivism and Tamil flourish, Kanchi Parmacharyar Chandrasekara Saraswathi, Sadayappa Vallal, the patron of Kavichakravarthi Kamban and Aasukavi Kaalamega Pulavar were born in this District. Desinghu Raja who ruled Ginjee was also a son of this soil.

Meipporul Nayanar, extolled in Peria Puranam ruled this place; Koperuchingan who married the daughters of Paari, ruled this place for 37 years continuously; Kaari, one of the Last Seven Philanthropists had also ruled this territory.

The Premier of the Madras Presidency in the last century, Omandur Ramasamy Chettiar, Tirukkural V.Munusamy, Kavignar Ulundurpettai Shanmugam and many other great people who were born in this District, brought fame and name to this District.

Farmers, businessmen and workers live in unity in this District; it has spiritual centres like Melmalayanur, Tirukovilur, Tiruvidaiyaru, Tiruvennainallur, Tiruvakkarai and Koovagam; likewise it has many tourist centres like Ginjee Fort, Kalvarayan Hills, Marakkanam, and Rishivandiyam.

As Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I am fortunate to address people in this sacred soil. I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who gave this rare opportunity to meet you all. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was responsible for my rise to this level and for the creation of this District. During the British rule, north of Palar was made as North Arcot District and the south as South Arcot District. In 1993, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma carved out this Villupuram District from South Arcot District. This District attained a speciality as it was created by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma though it has many greatness historically and through Puranic legends.

As Villupuram District, depends on agriculture, I wish to mention a few details. Area of paddy cultivation in Villupuram

District is 1,71,478 hectares- 36.1 per cent of the total land area in the District and 9.6 per cent in the state land area. But its paddy production is 8,32,585 tonnes – 10.5 per cent of State production.

Likewise, sugarcane cultivation area is 79,709 hectares -16.8 percent of the District land area. Sugarcane production is 93,68,212 tonnes-33.3 per cent in State production. I am happy Villupuram District produces more paddy and sugarcane. It can be cited as an index to farmers' labour in this District.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar acted as a farmer in many films. When he took up that role, he would transform himself into a real farmer. This was due to Puratchi Thalaivar's great interest and involvement in agriculture and farmers Hence, I consider that it is appropriate to celebrate Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s centenary in Villupuram District which has a large population of farmers.

Another worthy reason is that the Villupuram Mutthamizh Mandram honoured the centenary hero Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R. with the title 'Kalai Arasar' in appreciation of his services in the field of arts. Such encouragement by good hearts like you, transformed Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, in later days, as an excellent leader and Chief Minister.

If Puratchi Thalaivar was the root, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the 'Karpaga Vritcham' (Wish fulfilling Tree) that sprang out of that root. We all reside now under the shade of that tree which had spread far and wide. Future generations also will be under the Karpaga Vritcham of Amma.

Those who had seen Puratchi Thalaivar should recall his life as an artiste and his political victories. The younger generation should know the history of leaders who achieved (great things) and who figured as a great force of Tamil Nadu.

That is why, this centenary function is being held District-wise. This function will inspire youths, children and students to take Puratchi Thalaivar as a model and work, live a disciplined life, protect their parents, respect elders and be philanthropic. They should pledge to do this. This is my wish; and that will mark the victory of this function.

As I have told you earlier, I wish to share the pearls of information that I have collected by diving into the sea of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. "It is rare to be born as a human; still rare to be without physical deformity; still more rare to be born as Puratchi Thalaivar; and still rarer to have a charitable disposition, to rule as Chief Minister and to remain in the hearts of the people – in that order" This is completely true. I wish to narrate some incidents to testify to it.

As soon as Puratchi Thalaivar assumed office as Chief Minister in 1977, he summoned the District Collectors and the first question he asked was: "How many people are in poverty in Tamil Nadu? What plans do you have for them? Do those schemes give priority to agriculture, education, ration and employment?"

District Collectors were surprised. People understood in just six months after Puratchi

Thalaivar took over the responsibility of governance that the qualities of the 'Moovendars' of yore – governance, intelligence and courage – commingled in one man who had gone to school only for a few years. Journalists once asked Puratchi Thalaivar: "What you have done to Tamil Nadu in these six months, that is worth mentioning". Puratchi Thalaivar immediately replied: "Four of the 8 cotton mills that remained closed down, have been re-opened in these 6 months; of the 153 factories, 141 started functioning. In these 6 months, 28,440 job opportunities have been created and the posts filled up". Newsmen were spellbound.

Of late, Opposition parties are issuing statements criticizing the cordial relations of the Tamil Nadu Government with the Central Government. The great leader Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had followed the policy that a politician, after coming to power should not distinguish between ruling and opposition parties but should frame welfare schemes for all people as citizens of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, during his first term of Chief Ministership was supportive of the then Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi. Later Thiru. Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister. Puratchi Thalaivar supported him also. When Thiru.Charan Singh became the Prime Minister, Puratchi Thalaivar extended his hand of friendship to him also. When journalists queried him about this, Puratchi Thalaivar said: "Now, I am not an individual. I am Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister. The interest of the people is important to me. I am cordial with the Central Government so that I can implement welfare schemes for the people speedily. I am not worried about opposition parties' criticism". This Government, following the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is adopting the humanitarian path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. For us people's interests are important. Not the criticism of the opposition parties.

I wish to mention another incident. When Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. went to Delhi and sought an assistance of Rs.120 crore directly for distribution of uniforms to school children at no cost. When Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi replied "let us see", Puratchi Thalaivar returned to Tamil Nadu Illam at Delhi and told officials that the State itself could implement the scheme by collecting money from each house after explaining to people the financial constraints of the Government. But no necessity arose for that. The Prime Minister called back Puratchi Thalaivar and agreed to sanction the amount on account of his regard for Puratchi Thalaivar. "In my childhood days, I know how much I suffered to get a morsel of food and a pair of clothes. That is why, I wish to give school uniforms along with nutritious meals", Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar said feelingly. Our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "I consider it my sacred duty to implement the promises I have made to those who have voted for me, reposing faith in me. I have never failed to carry out the expectations of the poor". With these perceptions, the Government, following the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

is functioning as one that fulfills the needs of the people speedily.

Welfare schemes, costing many crore of rupees have been taken up through several Departments in Villupuram District. I will mention just a few of them due to time constraint.

1. Model schools at Kalvarayan Hills, Tirunavalur and Ulundurpettai at a cost of Rs.15.57crore;

2. A college of educational sciences, at a cost of Rs. 4.83 crore, a constituent college of the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University, to offer a degree course in Teacher Education.

3. A new Arts and Science college for women at a cost of Rs.7.97 crore.

4. Under the Prime Minister Awaz Yojana scheme, 31,146 houses for the poor in Rural, Town Panchayat and Municipal areas at a cost of Rs.763.40 crore.

5. Even in the unprecedented drought, 2,124 drinking water works costing Rs.56,75,81,000/- have been taken up for regular supply of drinking water to people.

Also, Rs.79,91,09,853/- has been distributed to the drought affected 1,54,435 farmers.

A new scheme – Kudimaramathu works scheme - to improve the storage capacity of lake has been started by this Government that acts on the guidelines of Amma. Under this scheme, 101 kudimaramathu works, costing Rs.808 lakh have been completed; to complete 92 more kudimaramathu works, Rs.1,250 lakh have been allotted and works are apace. In the interest of farmers, a scheme to remove the sediments from lakes without collecting a fee, has been started now. So far, 18,053 farmers have removed 15,35,704 cubic metres of sediments from 1,249 lakh.

Acceding to the requests of Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs, the Amma Government is taking steps to construct check dams across rivers in various Districts at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore for augmenting the water resources.

I have declared open a railway over bridge, constructed by the Highways Department on the Mailam road between Mailam-Perani railway stations and new buildings costing Rs.27.95 crore, inclusive of the Integrated Agricultural Extension Centres at Chinnasalem and Thyagadurgam. I have laid the foundation for works to be implemented at a cost of Rs.859.58 crore, including for a new law college (Rs.67 crore). Welfare assistance to the value of Rs.784,47,50,286/- has also been distributed to 41,248 beneficiaries.

In this way, the Government that has come in the line of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is working day and night with the sole objective of the State's progress. Particularly, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has taken up many welfare schemes for the development of women. "Amma Maternity Sanjeevi Kit" is distributed to pregnant women and "Amma Child Care Prize Kit" that contains 16 articles including 'kilukiluppai' is distributed to children born in Government Hospitals. Hon'ble Amma executed many such schemes

to firm up the principle that one could see God in the smile of the poor. This Government that has come in Hon'ble Amma's way, continues these schemes.

Unable to tolerate this, some people are intent in creating confusion in the State by speaking something for their own selfish reasons and diverting the attention of the people. I request them to give up their efforts and do service to people instead. When I say this, I am reminded of a tale.

As in the case of the Country, elections came to forests also. The lion is the permanent leader of the forest. Election is for the rest of the posts. Election campaign got into stride. On their part, the forest animals attended to their respective duties. Two inseparable friends, a tiger and a fox, alone did not involve themselves in election work. The tiger was jealous that the lion continued to be the leader of the forest.

It wanted to fell the lion through a conspiracy. One day, it told the fox: "It is my long pending unfulfilled desire that I should taste the lion's meat at least once. You alone can fulfil my desire. If you do that, I, who am next to the Lion, will make you the leader of the forest and die peacefully", it pleaded. Believing the tiger, the fox wanted to use the elephant to fell the lion and achieve its purpose. It went to the elephant and said: "Elephant! You are unaware of your own strength; in fairness, you should be the leader of this forest. If you contest the election, you will certainly win," said the fox.

Then, without the knowledge of the elephant, the fox went to the Lion and told it about the elephant's intention to contest elections to unseat the lion. "Let not anyone know that I have conveyed this information to you", the fox stated. The lion became angry and ordered a donkey that was passing by, to fetch the elephant immediately. The fox left the place with the thought that as per its plan, the elephant and the lion would come to blows and kill each other; and by offering the lion's meat to the tiger, it could become the leader of this forest.

The donkey fetched the elephant to the lion who queried whether what the fox had told it was true. The elephant burst out the truth: "It is the fox which asked me to contest the election". Realising the cunningness of the fox, the lion asked a crow that came that way to bring the fox, stating, "Crow! I have a prize to be given to the fox. You go immediately and bring him here". The crow conveyed the lion's message. Confused, the fox came to the place of the lion and was shocked to see that both the elephant and the lion were talking cordially. On seeing the fox, the lion pounced on it. The fox ran for its life and came to the place of the tiger, limping. "What has happened," the tiger asked. The fox managed the situation, saying, "Tiger!, I confronted the lion directly in order to fulfil your desire.The lion attacked me and escaped".

Like this story that happened in the forest, many people in the Country, like that fox, hatch conspiracies. Their attempts will not succeed. I firmly say that party volunteers, remaining solidly in one front, will defeat others' conspiracies and the confusions they have created.

The newly started Arts and Science College for Women will be named as "Dr. M.G.R. Women's Arts and Science College" in memory of the centenary celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Also, the indoor stadium constructed in the District Collectorate Master Complex will be named "Dr.M.G.R. stadium".

As the railway level crossing in the city greatly affects the traffic, the fly-over construction work on the old National Highway 45 to Villupuram town between Villupuram and Venkatesapuram railway stations will be expedited.

I convey my appreciation and greetings to party representatives and volunteers who worked for this excellent function, the general public, Government staff who co-operated in many ways and the Police Department.

The only Chief Minister whom our children should keep in mind is our Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Like a mother who attends on her children in every detail, she did things. For good development of the foetus, from its very formation in the womb, financial assistance was given to pregnant women, first from Rs.6,000/- to Rs.12,000/- and later from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/-. That is why we consider Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma as equal to God.

As I have mentioned already, an Amma Prize Kit containing 16 articles useful to the baby is given after the birth of a child. If a newly born baby is getting assistance from Amma, it is only in Tamil Nadu in the whole of India. The only Chief Minister who had framed a scheme with the consideration that even a new born in a poor family should be hygienic and that all the children should grow well, it is our Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hence, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the God of the poor. Today, she has become God by shedding the mortal coil. What is obtaining in Tamil Nadu today, is that God's rule. Doubts were raised about the tenure of this Government. Even our Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru. C.Ve.Shanmugam, the son of this soil, referred to it. No one can shake this Government when all these Ministers and the party cadre are with us. This Government is the people's Government, formed for the people, one that works day and night for the economic upliftment of the poor, oppressed and marginalized people and it is your own Government. No one can shake your Government. In this soil, no one can even think of shaking this Government as long as you are with us. I am proud to say that Amma's Government will continue to implement excellent schemes.

When I came here, the son of the soil, Hon'ble Minister for Law Thiru.C.Ve.Shanmugam made the request that I should announce some special schemes for this District. Already Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced some schemes but there were problems in implementing them. Those schemes too should be executed, he said. This District's MPs and MLAs were also unanimous in making the request. To honour their request, I make the new announcement.

A combined water supply scheme to benefit the Municipalities, Town Panchayats and

en route rural habitations in the Districts of Villupuram and Cuddalore will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. This will be through desalination of sea water with a plant with a capacity of 100 million litres per day.

There is already a water supply scheme for the Municipalities, Town Panchayats and rural habitations in Villupuram District, with Coleroon river water as the source. As the water availability has come down due to the severe drought not seen in the last 140 years, an alternative scheme – a combined water supply scheme - is to be implemented with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for meeting the drinking water needs fully and on a permanent basis. The scheme, to benefit Villupuram and Kallakurichi Municipalities, the Town Panchayats of Ulundurpettai, Vikravandi, Sankarapuram and the rural settlements in the Panchayat Unions of Ulundurpettai, Kanai, Vikravandi, Tirunavalur, Marakkanam, Vanur and Tiruvennainallur, is a de-salination scheme to be executed at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore through a plant to be installed at Marakkanam with a capacity of 100 million litres per day. I am happy to make this announcement.

In the extended areas of Villupuram Municipality, an underground sewerage scheme will be implemented with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, at a cost of Rs.198 crore. An underground sewerage system is already functioning in the central areas of the Municipality. The new sewerage scheme will cover the areas of Panampattu, Salamedu, Vazhudhareddi, Erumanandhangal and Karakuppam in the extended areas. The scheme will be executed with assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

I thank our Law Minister C.Ve.Shanmugam, the constituency MP (Thiru. S.Rajendran) and the party District Secretary Thiru. Kumaraguru for conducting this function in an excellent way. Nearly, a month's work has gone into this function. In the last two days, there was a downpour. Despite the rains, this excellent function was got up and I thank all of them. Amma's Government opened a law college in this region by giving the needed land and allotting Rs.60 crore for buildings. Likewise, a Women's Arts and Science College was sanctioned and started this year itself. I am happy that so many schemes have been implemented in the District. I record my appreciation and convey my greetings to the representatives and cadres of the party who toiled for this function, to the public, Government staff who co-operated in many ways and the Police Personnel.

Yesterday was Ours! Today is Ours! Tomorrow also will be Ours!

Vazhga Anna Namam!;

Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh!;

Thodarga Manbumigu Ammavin Aatchi!

Nandri! Vanakkam!.

Cuddalore District very dear to Amma:

‘Rs.115 crore works to be executed for Port’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at a function held at Cuddalore on 16.08.2017 (English Translation).

Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the personification of love, repository of efficiency and a person ever remembered by the people. I bow to that Deity Amma.

I am very happy and proud to participate in the centenary function of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R. being held in Cuddalore District and to meet you all.

Thiru. Arunmozhi Thevan, Cuddalore MP who has delivered a special address,

Thiru. P. Dhanapal, Hon’ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly who has delivered the Presidential Address,

Thiru. M.C.Sampath, Hon’ble Minister for Industries,

Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. Venkatesan who has welcomed the gathering,

Thiru.T.P. Rajesh, Cuddalore District Collector who is to propose a vote of thanks,

Thiru. Chandrakasi, Chidambaram MP,

Thiru. Murugumaran, Kattumannarkovil MLA, Thiru. Pandian, Chidambaram MLA, Thiru. Kalaiselvan, Virudhachalam MLA, Tmt. Sathya Panneerselvam, Panruti MLA, Hon’ble Ministers Thiruvalargal Dindigul Sreenivasan, Sengottaiyan, Sellur

Raju, Thangamani, Velumani, Jayakumar, C.Ve.Shanmugam, K.P. Anbalagan, Dr.V. Saroja, Thiruvalargal K.C. Karupannan, R.Kamaraj, O.S. Manian, R.Doraikkannu, Kadambur Raju, R.B.Udhayakumar, Vellamandi N.Natarajan, K.C.Veeramani, K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji, P. Benjamin, Dr.Nilofer Kafeel, Dr.C.Vijayabaskar, M. Manikandan, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thiruvalargal G. Baskaran, Sevvoor S. Ramachandran, Tmt.S. Valarmathi, Thiru. P. Balakrishna Reddy, Government Chief Whip Thiru. Rajendran, Thiru. N. Thalavai Sundaram, Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative at News Delhi, Tmt. P. Valarmathi, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation, Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, Chairman, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Tmt. G. Vijaya, Cuddalore District Revenue Officer, Executives of Party Headquarters, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, former representatives of local bodies, blood unto blood party siblings who are the aerial roots of the party, ardent fans of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Government staff, media friends, respected elders, ladies, youth, students, beneficiaries of welfare assistance, At the outset I offer my greetings to all of you.

'Chola kingdom is known for its fertile lands; Pandya kingdom for its pearls; Chera kingdom for its tusks; and Thondai Naadu for its learned people' – this is the old adage.

Many learned people were born in this Thondai Naadu of Cuddalore. Appar Adigal, who established Tamil and Spirituality in this Tamil soil through Saivite religion, was born here. Vallalaar infused new thoughts in the minds of people through his declarations - 'Arutperum Jothi; Thani Perum Karunai' ("The Great Effulgence of Compassion ! Its Extraordinary Mercy !"); and "Vaadiya payirai kanda pothellaam vaadinaen" ('I withered inside whenever I saw a withering crop'). Vadalur where that revolutionary saint lived and merged in Light, is in this Cuddalore District.

A. Subbarayalu Reddy, Premier of Madras Presidency in 1920 was a son of this Cuddalore soil. During British rule, this Cuddalore was verily the capital of Chennai Presidency.

Though many dynasties had ruled Cuddalore – Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas, Udayars, Vijayanagar monarchs, Ginjee Nayaks, Bijapur Sultans, Mahrattas and Moghuls – it has not given up its native art, civilization, culture to any one at any time and retains its individuality to this day.

In Cuddalore, righteousness and spirituality flourished side by side. Cuddalore is surrounded by many places of divinity like Thiruvanthipuram Devanadhaswami Kovil, one of the 108 Vaishnavite pilgrim centres, Chidambaram Thillai Natarajar Kovil, known as Bhooloka Kailasam, Srimushnam Bhuvarahaswami Kovil and Vridhachalam Kolanjiappar Kovil where Lord Muruga is worshipped as one without a form; tourist spots like Pichavaram mangrove forests and sliver like long stretches of beach; and waterbodies like Coleroon, Thenpennai, Manimuthaaru, Kedilam rivers and lakes like Perumal lake, Walajah lake, Veeranam lake, Wellington lake. Our extensive Cuddalore District has the blue

sea on one side, green fields on the other and industries on the third side.

There are many ways to earn money; but to produce food, there is only one way. That is agriculture. The Cholas who ruled Cuddalore realized this well. The First Paranthaka Cholan created the Veeranam lake, strengthened agriculture and transformed Cuddalore District into a sea of greenery. Hon'ble Amma, through the new Veeranam scheme, quenched Chennai people's thirst.

As it gives water to quench thirst, Cuddalore can be called a sacred place; you are fortunate to have been born in Cuddalore and to live here.

There is a relevance in conducting the centenary function of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmel Dr. M.G.R. in the historic Cuddalore. The political entry of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the wish-fulfilling tree of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, took place in Cuddalore. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. introduced Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma into politics at the party conference held at Cuddalore in 1982. Later, he appointed her as the Propaganda Secretary of the Party. So, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma started her political journey from Cuddalore District.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar was shouldering the responsibilities of party administration, governance of the State and the lakhs and lakhs of party cadres all alone. He shared the party responsibilities with Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in this Cuddalore soil.

Hence, Cuddalore was a turning point in the Kazhagam's history. The name of Cuddalore should be etched in golden letters in the history of the party.

I too feel honoured to participate in this function being held in this sacred soil.

I know very well that Cuddalore youth and women are courageous and loyalists. On every occasion of natural disasters hitting Cuddalore, their prowess and sacrifice have been proved. As far as I am concerned, I look at the heroic youths with discerning faculty as replicas of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Puratchi Thalaivar has defined how a youth should conduct himself. It was Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. who demonstrated how an actor and a leader should be.

His film songs inscribed the three letter mantra (Puratchi Thalaivar) M.G.R. in the minds of the people. Realising that film songs are the correct vehicles to take his lofty ideas to people, Makkal Thilakam M.G.R. introduced

social awareness songs in his films and encouraged the youth. Attracted by his songs, the youth turned into ardent fans of Puratchi Thalaivar and started engaging themselves in social service. As per the advice given by Puratchi Thalaivar in his films and songs, they created a new Tamil Nadu by changing society and reforming themselves.

The result: Puratchi Thalaivar became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1977 and turned into an incomparable political leader. Puratchi Thalaivar was not merely an inspiring force for the youth of yesteryear but remains and will remain so for the present generation and future generations of youth.

'The songs we sing and the drama we stage should be educative' –sang Puratchi Thalaivar in the film 'Nalla Neram'. Like that, his songs are instructive to the youth like textbooks and the experience of elders. I wish to share through this function some of the ideas Puratchi Thalaivar gave to the youth.

Prophet Mohammed said: "Heaven is at the feet of Mother" As he did in his personal life, Puratchi Thalaivar wanted youngsters who follow him to respect their mothers. That was why he gave importance to Mother even in the titles of his films - 'Thaaikku Pin Thaaram', 'Thaayai Kaattha Thanayan', 'Thaai Sollai Thattadhe', 'Thaayin Madiyil', 'Deiva Thaai' and the like. His song 'Thaayillamal Naanillai' in 'Adimai Penn', the lines 'Ellaam Yenakkul Erunthaalum, Ennai Thanakkul Vaithirukkum Annai Maname En Koil, Avalae enrum en Deivam' in the picture 'Paasam', and the song 'Vetri meedhu vetri vandhu ennai serum –Adhai vaangithandha perumai ellam unnai serum' reflect his affection towards his mother With the idea that his followers should respect their mothers as he did himself, he gave such immortal songs to Tamil language and the people of Tamil Nadu.

His concern for children can be seen through his songs. Can we forget the song 'Chinna Payalae, Chinna Payalae, Sethi Kaelada'. In that song, he stresses the importance of physical and mental growth for children by singing 'Aalum valaranum; arivum valaranum; adhudhaandaa valarchi'.

As the youth are the future pillars of India, he says clearly that the home and the Country depend on them through these lines - 'Nalla nalla pillaigalai nambi, indha naadae erukkuthu thambi'; 'Nalla paerai vaanga vendum pillaigalae; nam naadu enra thottathilae, naalai malarum mullaigalae'. He infused the idea into the youth through the song, 'Siritthu vaazha vendum – pirar sirikka vaazhandhidaadhae'. He listed the qualities of leadership, ` 'Karunai irundhaal vallalaagalaam; kadamai irundhaal veeranaagalaam; porumai irundhaal manidhanaagalaam – indha moonrum irundhaal thalaivanaagalaam'. The commoner M.G.R. rose to become an actor, a Puratchi Thalaivar and then the Chief Minister as he had as his natural traits the qualities of compassion, duty and patience. 'Irundhaalum maraindhaalum paer sollavendum; ivar poley yaar endru oor sollavendum' –this was how Puratchi Thalaivar wanted the youth to be and he lived as a exemplar of these lines.

Puratchi Thalaivar, the great selfless leader was a rare gift to Tamil Nadu to lead the youth. After Puratchi Thalaivar, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took the cadre on the path of victory. After her, only the AIADMK cadre has the mettle to lead Tamil Nadu on the path of Hon'ble Amma, as, this party alone has the youth force with the qualities of sincerity, hard work, loyalty and sacrifice. Particularly, the youth of Cuddalore are like the Japanese. They have the capacity to resurrect themselves from any number of natural disasters and emerge victorious.

Hon'ble Amma had concern and involvement in the security and progress of Cuddalore. She gave greater importance to Cuddalore while preparing the Budget for Tamil Nadu. We follow Amma's path. This Government, following the footsteps of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has implemented many exceptional schemes for the native vocations of marine and agricultural industries.

As Vadalur Vallalaar's Sathya Dharumasaalai removes hunger, the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant removes darkness. It is a gift to Cuddalore.

When the then Central Government decided to disinvest shares of the Neyveli Thermal Plant to the private sector, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stopped it and made Tamil Nadu Government to purchase those 3.56 per cent shares. She thus protected the thermal plant from being privatized.

Steps have been taken to convert the Cuddalore Port into an all weather port, a long pending demand of the people of Cuddalore District, under the Central Government's Sagarmala scheme with Tamil Nadu Government's participation. It has been planned to execute works costing Rs.115 crore like extending the breakwaters of the port, dredging the approach canal to a depth of nine metres and construction of piers for local merchandise. Steps have been taken to get coastal regulation zone and environmental clearance. Before the end of this year, work will be started on port development after getting due permission.

Through this development programme, ships can directly enter into Cuddalore port and handle goods. It will also facilitate movement of fishermen's boats without any hassle and pave the way for improving the fishermen's livelihood. Besides improving socio-economic growth of Cuddalore District, the scheme will provide direct and indirect job opportunities to 500 persons. Foundation has been laid today for nine new scheme works for different Government Departments including Municipal Administration, Public Works, Rural Development and Panchayat, costing totally Rs.50 crore.

Likewise 23 schemes completed at a cost of Rs.312.13 crore for various Departments including the Coleroon Combined water scheme (Rs.260.54 crore) of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, are being declared open. Also, I am happy to say that benefits valued at Rs.212.63 crore are to be distributed to 41,608 persons.

Being a coastal District, Cuddalore experiences both gentle breeze and storm. People here are brave enough to face the storm as they enjoy the breeze. Cuddalore has often

demonstrated that the proud and haughty who consider themselves the most powerful in the Country and think that everything happens at their behest and all are bound to them, are nothing before Nature.

Co-operation brings in innumerable benefits. The strength of unity should be felt. To remain together without distinction of high and low, is good not only for us but for the Country too. What to say of our Country, I will explain through a story how a forest benefited from unity.

A big banyan tree in a forest used to brag about its greatness to animals, birds and humans who sojourn to its shade. One day, a saint was resting under this tree. As usual, the tree started extolling its own greatness. "All animals, lion, tiger, bear, elephant etc are taking rest in my shade. Even kings passing by this way take rest under me. All the living creatures in this forest are under my control only. Hence, I am supreme in this forest".

With a smile in his face, the saint told the tree: "You will lose all your friends if you continue to brag in this vein. No one will come to help you at the time of danger. So you should be humble; there is no danger for you as long as wind is your friend".

The tree became wild at the saint's words. "Saint! Wind is my friend but he is not superior to me. I have the strength to challenge the wind", it said. The saint asked: " Shall I convey to wind what you have stated now?". "Why I should fear. Go and tell. Let it confront me this night itself and I will show who is stronger", the tree challenged. "All right. I will send the wind this night. He will meet you in the form of a storm", the saint said and left.

After the saint left, the tree was gripped with fear. It thought thus. It is certain the wind will strike me as a storm this night. If I have to escape, I have to shed all my branches and fruits. Thinking so, it shed its branches and fruits and stood as a barren tree.

Night came and the wind approached the tree. "O! friend! You have deprived me of any task as you have already lost what all you will lose if I hit you as a storm, even before my arrival. Due to your conceit, you have lost, by your own action, what all you have created, raw fruit, fruit, leaves and branches; even forest animals who used to come for your shade, will not near you hereafter; you have become isolated on account of your own conceit. At least from now onwards, you leave off your conceit and become a good friend to me. That will be good to this forest. If we come together, we can blow as a breeze. If there is enmity, not only you, the whole forest will suffer"- advised the wind.

The tree realized its mistake. The wind and the tree became friends as of old. Thereafter, there was no work for the storm in that forest; only breeze would waft through.

Let the party cadre keep this in mind and take a pledge to fulfill the desires of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and execute the ideas of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma by working unitedly.

Amma's Government, today, is making real what all Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had dreamt.

Farmers are the pillars of this Country. This Government's main concern is that agriculture should flourish, farmers should benefit. Amma's Government announced a wonderful scheme - 'kudimaramathu' - for desilting lakes and tanks located in different places so that farmers can benefit. This scheme is a boon to farmers. In the first phase, 1,519 lakes were taken up for de-silting at a cost of Rs.100 crore. The scheme is implemented by the Government with total participation of farmers. The de-silted sediment, dredged from the lakes and tanks is given to farmers free of cost. When the sediment is applied as fertilizer, the yield will go up, fetching a higher profit to farmers. Amma's Government has now created such a situation. No Government has implemented such a scheme so far. Amma's Government has brought about this scheme for the development of farmers, for doubling their income. As there is a demand for this scheme amidst farmers, it is proposed to allot Rs.300 crore for the scheme and take up de-silting of 2,065 lakes. The dredging of the lakes and tanks, under this scheme, increases their storage capacity and monsoon rains are stored fully. Because of this higher storage of water, the ground water level also rises and helps, in times of drought, irrigation and drinking water supply. I am proud to say that 'kudimaramathu' is a scheme that conserves rain water without wasting a single drop of water.

Likewise, Amma Government has announced an excellent three- year programme. It is construction of check dams at different places for storing the monsoon rain water with an intent to raise the ground water level. The programme will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore, spread over three years. In the first phase, Rs.350 has been allotted for this year.

Also, under the IAMWARM (Integrated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management) scheme, 220 works have been taken up for the restoration of lakes, channels and sluice gates. Rs. 787 crore has been allotted for this. This will help save the rain water fully. It is Amma's Government that has given such a wonderful scheme. This Government's priority is farmers' welfare. As Cuddalore is an agricultural District, has more agro-based industries and has more number of farmers, Amma showered many schemes on this District.

A severe drought, not seen in the last 140 years, overtook the State. Monsoons had failed the State. Still, Amma's Government saw to it that there was no price rise. Even in this severe drought, Amma's Government allotted necessary funds and supplied adequate drinking water to the people. A drought relief of Rs.2,244 crore is being distributed now.

Likewise, priority is given to education. The economic growth of a Country revolves around education. A Country/State where education is high, prospers; there will be a higher socio-economic development. Peace, love and efficiency will prevail. To attain all these, education is needed. Amma gave such an education. Amma brought about a revolution, a renaissance in education. Tamil Nadu surpassed all other States in India in its allocation for education. If a Country or a State is to be peaceful, it should be literate. To achieve this, Amma took innumerable steps. Amma's revolution in the field of education, has improved students' standards. I am proud to state that enrollment in higher education has risen. When Puratchi Thalaivi Amma assumed office as Chief Minister in 2011, for every 100 students, 21 went for higher education. But today, it has risen to 44.3 per cent and the State occupies a high position in education. This is due to the steps she had taken in the field of education and the many schemes she offered to students. At the National level, the percentage is just 24.5. Amma opened in the last 6 years 21 Arts and Science Colleges, 4 Engineering Colleges, 16 Polytechnic Colleges and 24 University Constituent Colleges – totally 65 - to enable students from the poor, oppressed, depressed, marginalized and ordinary families in rural areas to prosecute their higher studies. In Amma's regime alone, students could get higher education at low cost. There is no history that so many colleges were opened in six years in any other State. Affluent students go to private institutions, get their degrees and take up employment. The poor cannot aspire to study in private colleges. With the aim that they too should be on par with students from rich families in education, Amma established Government colleges and sowed the seed for thousands of students to take up higher education. I wish to state that Amma's Government, that follows the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma, has opened 8 Government Arts and Science Colleges this year. In your District also, one Arts and Science College has been opened at Kattumannarkoil. Besides 8 Arts and Science Colleges, 3 University Constituent Colleges also have been opened (total 11 colleges).

During Amma's regime, Tamil Nadu fishermen were brought back from overseas

prisons. Some people query what have they achieved by their frequent trips to Delhi and talks with the Prime Minister. I am happy to say that such frequent meetings with the Prime Minister alone got the fisheremen's release. I wish to point out that these meetings with the Prime Minister and other Ministers are all for the good of Tamil Nadu.

The Government is to provide a subsidy of Rs.2.10 lakh for construction of house by the poor in Municipality, Town Panchayat and Municipal Corporation areas. Amma's Government is implementing many schemes like concessions in the supply of electricity to weavers and subsidized power supply for power looms.

Our Hon'ble Minister, MPs and MLAs have placed some demands here. On the basis of those demands, I make some new announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced in the Assembly under Rule 110 that a check dam would be constructed across Coleroon river at Aadhanur-Kumaramangalam junction, Kattumannarkoil, Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.400 crore . On that, a detailed project report has been obtained. The report will be examined and works will be taken up after giving approval. A new bed level check dam will be constructed.

A check dam will be constructed across Vellaru at Thittakudi, Theppakudi Taluk, Cuddalore District. Ground water level will rise due to these check dams.

A retaining wall across Mooppanaaru, Pichavaram, Chidambaram Taluk, Cuddalore District will be constructed to prevent ingress of sea water.

The Minister, MPs and MLAs from your District requested that entry of sea water into agricultural lands should be prevented. Survey works will be taken up for construction of retaining wall across Coleroon river, Chidambaram Taluk, to save the Villages in Vallam Padugai and another wall across Vellaaru at Aadhivadakanallur Village, Bhuvanagiri Taluk, both in Cuddalore District and a project report will be prepared. Through this project, 57 Villages will be protected. Works will be taken up as per the project report. To honour another request, we gave a Government arts and science college at Kattumannarkoil. This college will be named Hon'ble Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R Arts and Science College.

Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who was greatly interested in people's welfare, sanctioned Rs.140 crore for taking up permanent flood prevention works in Cuddalore, Panruti, Chidambaram and Kattumannarkoil. I wish to state those works have been commenced.

Acceding to yet another request for a stable drinking water facility, I wish to state that a combined water supply scheme through de-salination plant with a capacity of 100 million litres per day will be implemented at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore to benefit the Municipalities, Town Panchayats and wayside dwelling units in the Districts of Villupuram and Cuddalore.

For supply of drinking water to Town Panchayats and rural settlements in Cuddalore District, a scheme is already in operation to

tap water from Coleroon river. This water resource has now depleted due to the severe drought not seen in the last 140 years. As an alternative arrangement to meet the drinking water needs of Cuddalore District in a permanent way, a combined water supply scheme will be implemented, with the blessings of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore through de-salination plant with a capacity of 100 million litres per day. The scheme will benefit the Town Panchayats of Thittakudi, Pennadam, Mangalampettai, Vadalur, Kurinjipadi, Kannikondan and the panchayats of Vridhachalam, Nallur and Mangalur.

We are celebrating the centenary of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. A few say we are celebrating it as a Government function. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, while alive, wished that the centenary of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. should be celebrated as a Government function spread over a year so that people can know his greatness. The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was started for the poor and the marginalised people. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was its incomparable Chief Minister. He lived and died toiling for the people. And she felt, people should know his greatness. As per her decision, this Amma Government is celebrating the function. It is Amma's command. Whether it be the birth anniversary celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar or Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the AIADMK is the only party that distributes welfare benefits to the poor.

When I was party propaganda secretary, Thiru. Sorathur Rajendran was the District secretary of Cuddalore. He invited me to participate in the birthday celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and distribute welfare assistance to the poor. With the permission of Hon'ble Amma, I participated in that function and distributed assistance worth Rs. 1 crore.

I joined the AIADMK in 1974. I started party work as a branch secretary of the party. Then I became Union President and District Secretary. From humble beginnings I have risen to this level.

We have not come through the back door. By hard work, we have come to this position. Those who believe in work will not be afraid of anything. Some people want to capture the party and the Government through the back door. That will never happen. This Movement was nurtured by Puratchi Thalaivar and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. As long as its one-and-a-half crore cadre is there, neither this party nor its Government can be shaken.

This Movement has established that even an ordinary man can become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It is not so in other parties in the Country. I am an example that even an ordinary volunteer in this party can rise to a high position by sheer hard work and loyalty. I wish to point out that it is the AIADMK Government which has enabled an ordinary volunteer from an agricultural family to hoist the National Flag at Fort St.George and thus honoured the farming community.

I congratulate and convey my good wishes to all party representatives and volunteers who have worked unitedly for this function, the general public, Government staff who have helped in several ways and the Police.

Yesterday was ours; Today is ours; Tomorrow will be ours.

Vaazhga Anna Naamam! Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh!, Thodarga Manbumigu Ammavin Aatchi!

Nandri; Vanakkam.

In Ariyalur District, with its intimations of antiquity, Amma's Government takes up manifold welfare schemes

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. at Ariyalur on 23.08.2017 (*English Translation*).

I bow to Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I am very happy and proud to participate in the centenary function of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R. and meet you all.

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. Dhanapal who has delivered an excellent presidential address, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer of the party, Brother O.Panneerselvam who has honoured us by joining us to declare that the aim of both of us is to realize the dream of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and gave immense pleasure by sharing the dais after a gap of six months, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. Thambidurai who has given brilliant ideas in his speech, Rajya Sabha MP Thiru. Vaithilingam who placed many good ideas in a brief manner, Government Chief Whip and the son of the soil Thiru. Rajendran who has made such an excellent arrangement as to wonder whether it is a centenary function for Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. or whether it is a party State conference

and has delivered an excellent speech, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R.Venkatesan who has delivered the welcome address, Chidambaram MP Thiru. M.Chandrakasi who has delivered a felicitation address, Jayamkondam MLA Thiru. J.K.N.Ramajayalingam, Kunnam MLA Thiru.R.T. Ramachandran, Hon'ble Ministers Thiuvalargal Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, K.A.Sengottaiyan, Sellur K. Raju, D. Jayakumar, K.P.Anbalagan, M.C.Sampath, K.C.Karuppanan, R.Kamaraj,O.S.Manian, Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, Dr. C.Vijayabaskar, R.Doraikkannu, Kadambur Raju, R.B.Udhayakumar, Vellamandi N.Natarajan, K.C.Veeramani, K.T. Rajenthrabhalaji, Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Thiru. M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Dr. M.Manikandan, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thiruvalargal K. Pandiarajan, G.Baskaran, Sevvoor S. Ramachandran, Tmt. S.Valarmathi, P. Balakrishna Reddy, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Thiru. Pollachi Jayaraman, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Tamil Nadu Housing Board Chairman Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, District Collector of Ariyalur Tmt.G. Laxmi Priya who is to propose a vote of thanks, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Members of Parliament and Legislature, Office bearers of Party Headquarters, former representatives of local bodies, Executives of Co-operative Societies, Party Executives at all levels, office bearers of the party branches, Government staff, media friends, respected Elders, Ladies, Youth, Students, Beneficiaries of Welfare Schemes – to all of you, I offer my humble respects.

Ariyalur District, in the centre of Tamil Nadu, is a wonderful District, boasting a pre-historic antiquity, and rule by several dynasties and flaunting spiritual institutions, architecture and factories. This land, now known as Ariyalur, was under sea before humans appeared on earth. Later, as the sea water receded east, rocks that had undergone changes, emerged as land. Then, people

started settling there. As pre-historic people lived here, Ariyalur District is called the "Mecca of Geologists" A variety of images of tree, animal and botanical specimens have been found spread over the entire District. Even the eggs of dinosaur were found in Kallankurichi in the District. Hence this District is called the Palaeo Zoological Park of Ancient Life.

King Ori, an expert in archery had ruled this Ariyalur. Between 6th and 9th century AD, Ariyalur District was part of the Pallava empire. Till the times of Rajaraja Cholan, Thanjavur was the Chola capital. Later, it was Rajendra Cholan who shifted the capital to Gangaikondacholapuram in this dry Ariyalur region, created 86 towns around the capital and sowed the seed of development for this region. At Gangaikondacholapuram, Rajendra Cholan constructed a huge temple with a tall tower - Brahadeeswarar temple - a replica of the temple his father Rajaraja Cholan had constructed at Thanjavur. UNESCO has declared this temple as a World Heritage Monument. As Rajendra Cholan conquered overseas Countries, Gangaikondacholapuram became the capital of Southeast Asian Countries and trumpeted the glory of Tamils. These show Ariyalur District's historic greatness.

Thousands of labourers had toiled with physical and mental strength to construct the Big temple of Thanjavur and the Gangaikondacholapuram temple as also many other temples and dug many lakes. If overseas tourists who come here, admire the technological and artistic skills of the workers of Chola period, it is evident that Tamils were the pioneers for the entire world in the fields of labour, technological and artistic skills.

From stone inscriptions, it can be learnt that Ariyalur workers were, particularly the models for Tamils' artistic skills. From Rajendra Cholan I to Rajendra Chozhan III, 16 Chola kings ruled Gangaikondacholapuram for 240 years. After Cholas, Pandyas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagar kings, Bijapur sultans, Mahrattas and Carnatic Nawabs had ruled this region.

After the kings, when Ariyalur came under the British oppression, freedom fighters heroically sprang up in great numbers from this soil. When I recall the countless 'Tyagis' like Ariyalur Sabapathy Pillai, Natesa Iyer, Ganapathy Reddiar, Nataraja Pillai, Eravangudi Padmanaban, Ariyalur Manoji Rao, Kuppusamy, Aparanji, Appasamy, Veerabadran, Rangarajan, Vikramangalam Azhagesam Pillai and Manakkal Sadasivam Pillai, I not only pay my respects to them but adore this sacred soil also where they were born, lived and died.

Spiritual places like Melapazhuvur Sundareswarar temple, Keezhapazhuvur Alanthuraiyar temple, Thirumazhapadi Vaidhyanatha Swamy temple, Kamarasavalli

Sundareswarar temple, Govindaputhur Gangajagadheeswarar temple, Siva temples of Vikramangalam, Senthurai, Sripuranthan and Sennivanam and Elakurichi Adaikala Maatha shrine and tourists spots like Vettakudi-Karayavetti bird sanctuary are in this Ariyalur District.

It is a District where the working class is in a majority what the many private sector cement factories and a number of trades based on lime and stone. That is why Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. considered the people here as his own kith and kin. He cherished the working class people as the children of the same mother as he sings in the song "Onru engal saadheeyae; onru engal needhiye; uzhaikkum makkal yaavarum oruvar petra makkale" (We belong to the same caste, we have one code, all workers are the children of same ancestors).

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., after 1972, became the single person who decided the fate of Tamil Nadu. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was born poor, grew up poor, ruled Tamil Nadu for the poor, designed many schemes to banish poverty from Tamil Nadu, worked day and night for the upliftment of the working class, lived as a worker till the last even after occupying the highest post and still remains in the hearts of the people though he had shed his mortal coils.

In 'Annamitta Kai' film, M.G.R. sang: "Illaamai neekka vendum; thozhil aakkam vendum; ingu ellorum vaazha vendum; munnera enna vendum; nal ennam vendum" (poverty should be banished; industries should be encouraged; all should have means for livelihood here; what is needed for progress; good mentality is needed"). His dialogue in 'Padagotti' film runs as follows: " I am not a single person(to do what I like); I am under the control of the people. I am not a leader; in the garb of leader, I am a slave to people." In 'Pallaandu Vaazhga' film a woman will address M.G.R.: "There is none in the world who has understood the difficulties of the poor as you have". We should not view these songs and dialogues as imaginary ones written for films. Puratchi Thalaivar has never uttered a word that is only for the sake of acting in films and has not to do with outside dealings. What he wanted to convey to the people, he would say in the silver screen. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was the first person in the whole of India who used cinema, an entertainment art, as a medium for people's welfare and for creating awareness in them.

Following Puratchi Thalaivar, film heroes, in the rest of the States in India, came to public life. On Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s advice, N.T.R. started his public life and became the Chief Minister in Andhra. Using his personal friendship with Thiru. N.T.R., Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. brought the Telugu Ganga scheme to Tamil Nadu.

Likewise Thiru. Prem Nazir in Kerala and Thiru. Rajkumar in Karnataka came to public life in the footsteps of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. That is why Thiru. N.T.R. was affectionately called by people as "Andhra M.G.R.", Prem Nazir as "Kerala M.G.R." and Rajkumar as "Kannada M.G.R.".

As he was a model for other actors and leaders in India, the credit of making Tamil Nadu as a model State to other States also goes to Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. M.G.R. stated: "Artistes should work for the Country; then only, their name will not fade out" ('Siranjeeviaaga vaazhvaargal').

People will never accept one as a leader who has done nothing for them. I am mentioning this here because Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., in the times of democracy, brought credit to Tamil Nadu by winning over world leaders by his love, command and work like Rajendra Cholan, who had this Ariyalur as his capital, did by conquering large tracts of Asian Countries during the times of monarchy. To retain those honours after him, Puratchi Thalaivar handed over his party to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma .

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave shape to Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s ideas. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s song "Naaloru maedai, pozhuthoru nadippu - avan paer manithanalla; naavil onru, ninaivil onru, adhan paer ullamalla; ullathil vaithadhai udhattil vaippavan eveno avanae manidhan" ('Ever shifting stage, ever shifting dramatics does not make a man; dichotomy in speech and mind does not make a heart; he is The Man who speaks what he feels') wholly fits Puratchi Thalaivar himself.

By implementing the visionary schemes conceived by her, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma brought about an image of herself as the permanent Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The idea behind Puratchi Thalaivar's song, "Annaandhu paarkindra maaligai katti, adhan aruginil olai kudisai katti, ponnaana ulagendru peyarum ittaal, indha bhoomi sirikkum; andha saami sirikkum" ("This Earth will laugh, that God will laugh if a world with skyscrapers and huts side by side, is named as 'golden world'), is that Tamil Nadu should change into a State that has no huts.

Through the many schemes of the Slum Clearance Board and Housing Board, Tamil Nadu had started replacing huts even from the days of the rule of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. In the 'Oli Vilakku' film, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma would reflect the people's thoughts through the song, "Kudisai ellam veedaagum nerathilae-naanga theru oram kudiyera thaevayillai; sarkaaru yaezhai pakkam erukkayilae naanga satta thittam meeri inga nadappathillai" ('when huts are becoming houses, we need not occupy street corners; when the Government is on the side of the poor we don't break the law'). Likewise, Puratchi Thalaivar felt that people of Tamil Nadu should never face the despicable condition of begging for food. That was why Hon'ble Amma implemented many welfare schemes on the lines of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. like distribution of rice at no cost through ration shops, 'annadhanam' scheme to distribute food in temples, nutritious meals scheme in schools and budget restaurants - Amma Unavagam. Amma's Government, following the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma, is also implementing various welfare schemes for the people and is changing Tamil Nadu into a State that has banished poverty.

Through different Departments, welfare schemes costing several crore rupees have been taken up in Ariyalur District. Due to time constraint, I shall mention only a few of them.

1. Distribution of crop loans to the tune of Rs.28.59 crore through the central co-operative banks to 6,956 small and micro farmers, as per the orders of Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that commenced in her lifetime itself, is now continued.

2. Co-operative bank agriculture loans to an extent of Rs.90.62 crore to 23,317 small and micro farmers have been waived.

3. Under Amma micro finance scheme Rs.54 lakh loan has been issued to 1,078 persons.

4. Rs. 502.81 crore has been given as loan to 95,958 farmers who have repaid their crop loans on time. For this, Tamil Nadu Government has given an interest subsidy of Rs.30 crore.

5. Under the Green House Programme, Rs.119.75 crore has been allotted in the last six years for construction of 6,001 green houses with solar panels for the poor and marginalized families.

6. In the last 6 years, Rs.66.04 crore has been allotted for construction of 254 green houses with solar panels for poor weavers' families.

7. Works, costing Rs.48.51 crore, to supply drinking water have been undertaken.

8. 16,87,658 cubic meter of sediments have been removed from 995 lakes, tanks and ponds belonging to PWD and Rural Development Department and 16,536 farmers have benefited.

9. 65 kudimaramathu works like dredging of lake and raising of river bunds have been taken up at a cost of Rs.5.52 crore through the Public Works Department.

I have today inaugurated six schemes of the Departments of Public Health, Horticulture, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, School Education and Municipal Administration, completed at a cost of Rs.5.53 crore.

I am happy to say that I have laid the foundation for six works of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, Departments of Highways, PWD, Public Health and Family Welfare and Higher Education including construction of 288 apartments by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board at Kurumbachavadi Village, Ariyalur, all costing Rs.69.06 crore.

Welfare assistance on behalf of various Departments, valued at Rs.86.72 crore has been disbursed today to 11,514 persons.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma once said: " My thoughts revolve more around the question whether we are on the side of the people than on whether people are on our side. I am fully absorbed in devising the ways in which I can do good to the people who trust me. That is why, you, my beloved people are on my side".

I echo what Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has stated – after all, I have come up with her blessings. As I can get Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's blessings only through working for you all the time, not only my thoughts but my actions too are for the people. I assure you that Hon'ble Amma's Government too will function as per your wish even as Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Hon'ble Amma who had understood and fulfilled the needs of the poor. Hon'ble Amma's Government is functioning only on the lines of these two great leaders.

If welfare schemes should reach the people without any hurdles as desired by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we should strengthen the All India Anna DMK party and the Government by remaining in one front with identical views and purpose. This Movement should march forward as one family. We remain affectionate towards each other. We have also exhibited that. Our offering to hon'ble

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the unity of leaders and volunteers. You can understand this well, through an anecdote.

In a town, a monk was giving a lecture on spirituality. Though a populous town, not many turned up for the lecture. Also, those who had come sat far apart from each other. The monk sensed that there was no unity among the people.

He called them one by one, tied a thread on their hands and gave three more threads to each of them with instruction to tie the threads to three more persons who had helped them or were close to them; and the persons who received the threads should in turn do so to three more persons each. 'Let us meet next week on the same day and at the same place', the monk said. People received the threads, left the place and started carrying out the instructions from the next day. A week passed by. People assembled for the meeting. The monk was surprised beyond words. From children to old persons, people had turned up for the meeting. All displayed the threads.

The monk addressed them: "I am happy to see you all. You are all siblings of the same mother. So far, you have remained without knowing how to exhibit your love and gratitude to each other. These threads have brought out your unity. I bless you all to remain united".

As has happened in this story, let us remain united and strengthen the party and the Government.

Amma's Government has given a concrete shape to what Amma had wanted to do for the farmers. The Government has launched a wonderful scheme – kudimaramathu – and is implementing it with the participation of people Lakes and tanks in Tamil Nadu are being dredged. In the first phase 1,519 lakes are de-silted on an allocation of Rs.100 crore. The dredged sediment is given to farmers free of cost. When the sediments are applied to their fields, production will improve and farmers' standard of living will also go up. Due to the dredging the storage capacity of lake and tanks will improve and rain waters will be conserved in a greater measure. Acceding to the demands for the extension of the scheme, Rs.300 crore has been allotted for 'kudimaramathu' and 2,065 lake are to be de-silted this year. This will also improve the ground water table. Through the IAMWARM scheme, works are to be taken up at a cost of Rs.187 crore. Through this, rain waters will be conserved totally. Through this augmentation of water resources, Amma's Government has helped the farmers. Ariyalur District is an agricultural District.

As for as check dams are concerned, Amma's Government has allotted Rs.1,000 crore to be spent over three years for construction of dams across Odais and rivers so that waters can be saved for farmers and for raising the ground water table and thereby meeting the drinking water needs of people. Due to farmers' effective contribution, Tamil Nadu established a record of producing 100 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for the last five years and bagged the Central Government's award for maximum production. The State has won the Krishi Karman award four times.

As drought relief, Rs.2,247 crore has been given to farmers whose crops have been affected. The relief has been disbursed to most of the farmers. For the rest, it will be given shortly. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the only Chief Minister in the whole of India

who had provided relief to farmers whenever they were affected by natural calamities, whether it be rains, floods or drought. Amma's Government implements the crop insurance scheme whenever farmers are affected. I am happy to say that farmers were helped to get Rs.1,882 crore so far.

Also, to store farmers' produce, Amma's Government has constructed godowns in all Primary Agriculture Co-operative Banks. From 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, in Amma's rule, 3,879 godowns were constructed. The godowns will avert farmers from resorting to distress sale. They can store their produce when the market is depressed, raise a loan at a low rate of interest and sell their products when the market is on the upswing. The Government is also taking steps to get a fair price for the farmers.

For getting a remunerative price for coconut cultivating farmers, the Government proposes to permit tapping of 'neera' from coconut trees. At present, if a coconut farmer gets Rs.1,000/- annually from a tree, 'neera' tapping will help him get upto Rs.5,000/-.

The assistance given to the family of a farmer, under the farmer protection scheme, who dies due to natural causes, has been doubled from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. Poor agricultural labor will benefit out of it.

A renaissance has taken place in the fields of higher education and school education in Amma's rule. Compared to other States, development in education is phenomenal in Tamil Nadu. In 2011, during DMK's rule, the percentage of students prosecuting higher education was 21 – that is 21 persons went for higher education for every 100 persons. After Amma took over the reins of administration, this percentage increased to 24.5. The many schemes implemented by Amma have pushed up this number further to 44.3 per cent in 2016. Those schemes include distribution of school uniforms, note books, school bag, bicycle and laptop free of cost. Tamil Nadu is the only State in India which has distributed laptops to students free. Students from well to do families are able to purchase laptop for Rs.14,000/- and join technical education courses. But students from poor families, though efficient, are unable to join those courses. Hence, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a visionary outlook introduced this scheme. Ten years hence, people will applaud that Amma's efficiency has changed Tamil Nadu into a world of science. Each and every scheme Amma presented, is a vibrant one. Whoever comes to occupy the administration, Amma's schemes cannot be brushed aside.

The only leader who facilitated poor students to take up higher studies in their own localities, is Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. In the last six years, 65 colleges have been opened – 21 Government Arts and Science Colleges, 24 University Constituent Colleges, 16 Polytechnic Colleges and 4 Engineering Colleges.

Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Amma, has also opened this year 8 Arts and Science Colleges and 3 University Constituent Colleges. I am proud to say that it is Amma's Government that has laid the base for the poor students to take up to higher education.

In the earlier DMK rule, teacher vacancies in schools remained unfilled, bringing down the standard of education. Our Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up a record by distributing on a single day in November, 2012,

21,800 appointment orders for school teachers. In the last six years, all the vacancies have been filled up. The entire credit goes to Amma.

By making an allocation of Rs.27,932 crore for school education in the 2017-2018 Budget, Amma's Government has demonstrated the importance it gives to education. Besides, Hi-Tech computer laboratories are being set up at a cost of Rs.438 crore, smart class rooms at a cost of Rs.60 crore and infrastructure facilities provided to schools at a cost of Rs. 391 crore.

In the housing sector, a wonderful scheme is being implemented jointly with the Central Government to provide houses for the poor in Municipal Corporation, Municipal and Town Panchayat areas. Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs.2.10 lakh is given for building own houses. While speaking at Rameswaram, our Prime Minister Stated that the Centre would allot any number of houses in lakhs to Tamil Nadu.

Amma's Government also gives free electricity to weavers, concessional power to powerloom units and green fodder for cattle at low rates during periods of drought.

Opposition parties raise the question in many public meetings what this Government has done for the people. People know that a severe drought has overtaken the State on account of monsoon failure. Such a severe drought as this has not been witnessed in the last 140 years. There is no water in dams, tanks and lakes. The ground water level has dipped to below 1,000 ft. To solve the drinking water problem, Amma's Government took steps on a war-footing , allotted required funds and solved the problem.

I am proud to state that this Government, has, from the date of taking over the administration till 15.08.2017, inaugurated 33,139 scheme works costing Rs.6,872.25 crore and laid the foundation for 4,199 new schemes, costing Rs.1,114.44 crore. In 2016-2017, 24 combined water schemes were executed at a cost of Rs.960.33 crore to benefit 22,71,000 persons. Now, Government has taken over the sand quarries. During the election campaign, Amma had promised to raise the assistance given to pregnant women. Amma's Government has taken steps to raise the assistance from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.18,000/-.

Amma's Maternity Sanjeevi scheme is only one of its kind in the whole Country, thought out by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the proper growth of the child in the womb of poor women. Amma child care prize kit which contains 16 articles for the use of the child, is another scheme brought in by Amma. Amma's Government is the only Government which gives welfare assistance from the moment a child is born.

'Gold for Thaali' , a scheme implemented in the rule of Ponmana Chemmal M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, is designed, out and out, for the poor to enable them cross the economic barrier and sustain their families. The quantum of gold, given under the scheme, has been doubled from 4 grams to 8 grams. Likewise, the cash assistance under the Marriage Assistance Scheme has been doubled to Rs.50,000/- from Rs.25,000/-. Only Amma's Government has hiked the assistance to this extent.

The Unemployment allowance has also been doubled and in the last six months alone, 57,000

beneficiaries have been given Rs.13 crore. The smart card scheme to replace the family card has been implemented by the Amma's Government.

Some people are itching to give some trouble or the other to this Government. This Anna DMK was started by Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. After passing through many difficulties created by opponents and meeting the challenges posed by them, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. established a good image of the party in the minds of the people and gave good governance for 11 years. Hon'ble Amma too, passed through many difficulties, faced all sorts of abuses and provided a pro-people governance with a policy that the poor and the middle classes should get all the facilities enjoyed by the rich. This Government enjoys the blessings of these two great leaders and is guided by their souls. No one can remove this party or its rule from the hearts of the people as long as Hon'ble Amma's soul is on our side.

There is talk that this Government is a corrupt Government. They (those who indulge in such talk) were with us till yesterday; participated in our Government. Only they know how, all on a sudden, they accuse us as a corrupt Government. I leave it to their conscience.

Hon'ble MPs and MLAs placed several demands. Hon'ble Amma's Government inaugurated some schemes today. The request for a new Government arts and science college is under Government's consideration.

NEW SCHEMES:

A G.O. has been issued appointing a high level committee to examine the compensation to be paid for acquisition of lands for the Jayamkondam Thermal Power Station. Steps will be taken to disburse compensation speedily on the basis of the committee's recommendations.

1. A bridge will be constructed across Vennankuzhi Odai at Vangudi Village, Udayarpalayam Taluk.

2. To ensure smooth traffic, an additional bridge will be constructed across Marudhaiyaru in Varanavasi Village, Thirumanur Union.

3. A high rise bridge will be constructed on Peria Thirukonam road, Edayathankudi Village, Ariyalur Panchayat.

4. At Manakkal Village, Ariyalur District, a livestock branch station will be set up.

5. A Primary Health Centre will be set up at Kallankurichi Village, Ariyalur District.

6. The ancient Karaivetti bird sanctuary at Thirumanur Union, Ariyalur District will be upgraded and the lake where the sanctuary is located, will be de-silted and rejuvenated.

I convey my appreciation and good wishes to the party representatives and volunteers who worked unitedly for this excellent function, to the general public, Government staff who have co-operated in many ways and the Police Personnel.

Yesterday was Ours! Today is Ours! Tomorrow will be Ours!

Vazhga Anna Namam!

Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh!

Thodarga Hon'ble Amma's rule!

Nandri! Vanakkam!

NEWS IN PICTURES

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office of Deputy Chief Minister to Thiru. O.Panneerselvam at the Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 21.08.2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaithiyanathan I.A.S., and other High Government Officials participated.

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Ch. Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office to Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, who has been appointed as the Minister for Tamil Development and Tamil Culture, at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 21.08.2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal, Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaithiyanathan I.A.S., and other High Government Officials were present.

Twelve new schemes worth Rs.37.74 crore declared open M.G.R. celebrations at Tiruvarur

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. centenary at Tiruvarur on 19.08.2017 (*English Translation*).

I bow to the all pervading Deity Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who remains the personification of Love, source of Prowess, Idaya Deivam, symbol of Charity, a model of work, an example of Enthusiasm, Mother to all, the Light in the lives of the poor, the Five Letter Mantra, a Commanding personality, the Bugle for claiming Rights and an incarnation of Avvaiyar.

I am very happy and proud to participate in the centenary celebrations of Puratchi Thalaivar Ponmana Chemmal Dr. M.G.R. at Tiruvarur and meet you all.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M.Thambidorai, who delivered a special address, Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P. Dhanapal, Hon'ble Minister for Food Thiru. R. Kamaraj, the Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R.Venkatesan I.A.S., who welcomed the gathering, the Nagapattinam MP Dr. K. Gopal, the Thanjavur MP Thiru. K. Parasuraman, Hon'ble Ministers Thiruvalargal Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, K.A.Sengottaiyan, Sellur K. Raju, P.Thangamani, S.P.Velumani, D. Jayakumar, C.Ve.Shanmugam, K.P.Anbalagan, Dr. V. Saroja, Thiruvalargal M.C.Sampath, K.C. Karuppanan, O.S.Manian, Udumalai K. Radhakrishnan, R.Doraikkannu, Kadambur Raju, R.B.Udhayakumar, Vellamandi N. Natarajan, K.C.Veeramani, K.T. Rajenthirabhalaji, P. Benjamin, Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Thiruvalargal M.R.Vijayabhaskar, Dr. M. Manikandan, Tmt. V.M.Rajalakshmi, Thirvalargal G. Baskaran, Sevvoor

S.Ramachandran, Tmt. S.Valarmathi, Thiru. P. Balakrishna Reddy, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi Jayaraman, Chief Government Whip Thiru. Rajendran, Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Chairman of Tamil Nadu Housing Board Thiru. P.K.Vairamuthu, the Tiruvarur District Collector Thiru. L.Nirmal Raj I.A.S., who is to propose a vote of thanks, Office bearers of Party Headquarters, former Ministers, former MPs, MLAs and Representatives of Local Bodies, office bearers of Co-operatives, the party cadres who are the aerial roots of the party, Government staff, media friends, Respected Elders, Ladies, Youths, Students and Beneficiaries of Welfare Schemes –at the outset I extend my greetings to all of you.

With its blend of agriculture, spirituality, Tamil and arts, Tiruvarur shines as a beautiful District. The Tiruvarur Arulmigu Thyagarajar temple's glory is that its antiquity cannot be calculated by Time.

Mannargudi is famous for the beauty of the compound wall (of the main temple). Vedaranyam is famed for its (temple) Lights, Tiruvidaimarudur for its Streets and Tiruvarur for its temple chariot. This chariot is the tallest one in Tamil Nadu. It is Amma's Government that repaired this chariot and run it during the temple festival.

All the Four Saivite saints–Gnana Sambandar, Appar, Sundarar and Manickavasagar- have composed songs on Arulmigu Thyagarajar temple. Tiruvarur represents the principle of Earth in the Five Macro Elements and a birth in this town is considered as Liberation; the town is the foremost in the 'Sapthavidanga Sthalams'. The site on which the Thyagarajar temple is built represents 'Gnana Sakthi' (Wisdom) among the Sakthi Peetams which accounts for an exclusive sannadhi (place) for Maha Saraswathi worship.

The Maha Saraswathi temple, built by Ottakoothar in the 3rd century at Koothanoor in Tiruvarur District is world famous because this is the only exclusive shrine for Kalaivani Saraswathi, the Deity for Learning, in the whole of India.

The 11th century Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy temple at Mannargudi adds glory to this District. Thiru Rameswaram temple built in the 11th century in Needamangalam Taluk is an ancient temple.

The Muthupettai Dargah in this District is a famous one.

Tiruvarur is a wonderful District filled with the fragrance of wisdom emanating from erudite scholars and wise men. It is the soil ruled by Manu Needhi Chozhan who executed his own son at the wheels of a chariot to render justice to a cow. Manu Needhi Chozhan, known for his sense of justice ruled his kingdom with Tiruvarur as his capital. This episode of rendering justice which has made Tamils proud, was sculpted by the later day Cholas within the temple itself.

The Triumvirate of Carnatic Music – Thyagarajar, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri – were born in this soil. Uthamanadhapuram, the birth place of 'Tamizh Thaathaa' who was never tired of running after

Tamil manuscripts and making Tamil literature known to the world, adds further glory to this District. 'Silver Tongue' Srinivasa Sastry who taught the nuances of English language to the Britishers themselves, belongs to Valangaiman in this District. 'Thamizh Thendral' Thiru. Vi.Ka. was born in Tiruvarur and served the Tamil language. His speeches and writings will last as long as the Tamil language is there. Nannilam in this District became famous for giving 'Eyakkunar Imayam' K. Balachandar to the cine world. The list of great men of this soil will be a never ending one. A statue of 'Paguttharivu Pagalavan' Thanthai Periyar who fought against ignorance, superstition and caste differences is installed at Keeranur, the northern entrance of Tiruvarur District by farmers. From this I could feel that the Tiruvarur soil has been fertilized by 'Dravidam'.

More than its fame and distinctions, the greatness of this District is that it is an agricultural District full of farmers and workers. Paddy production in this District is 8,52,925 tonnes – 10.7 per cent of the state production. I am happy Tiruvarur District is the maximum paddy producing District. Among the three basic needs of people – food, clothing and shelter – Tiruvarur District caters to the most important of them all – food.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi propagated the importance of agriculture and the greatness of farmers through her films and songs. "Kadavul enum mudhalaali/kandeduttha thozhilaali-vivasaayi" – such was the respect Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. gave to farmers, equating them with children of God. In many films, Puratchi Thalaivar donned the role of farmer; those roles made him highly influential. If the Puratchi Thalaivar acted 'Vivasayi' film ran for 100 days and established a record, it meant that farmers had patronized that film more. In the film 'Naadodi Mannan', the heroine would voice her despair through these lines of a song, "ada kaadu velanji enna machaan/ namakku kaiyum kaalunthaanae miccham" (what use is it for us if the field has an abundant crop/ we are left with our hands and feet only). Puratchi Thalaivar would counter it in a way as to inspire the farmers with these lines "Ippo kaadu vilayattum ponnae/ namakku kaalam irukkuthu pinnae" (O! girl!, let the crop grow in the field now/ The time we will prosper is

coming). He would complete the song with the lines "naan podaporaen sattam; poduvil nanmai purindhidum thittam; naadu nalam perum thittam" ('I will legislate a scheme that will render good in general and Country will flourish') as if foretelling that he would become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to light up the lives of farmers. "Nalla nalla nilam paarthu/ Naamum vidhai vidhaikkanum" ('Choose a good land and sow the seed') – said Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., the only actor to describe the agricultural practices through his song. That was why, in later days when he became the Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar waived agricultural loans to an extent of Rs.330 crore and brought in the crop insurance practice. "Annamitta kai, nammai aakkivitta kai"; "Naalai ulagai aala vendum – uzhaikkum karangale" ('The hand that feeds is the hand that shapes us'; 'The hands of workers should rule the world') – so praised Puratchi Thalaivar about the working class.

Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. was of the view that the success or failure of a Country was determined by agriculture. Generally, if there was distress to the working class, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. would be the first to extend the helping hand.

Challenging what was wrong was in his blood. An incident in his life. While Puratchi Thalaivar was studying in the third standard in the Yaanaiyadi school in Kumbakonam, the class leader collected quarter anna from each student for the purchase of a drinking water pot for the class. After collecting an amount of one rupee, he purchased a pot for three fourths of the rupee and utilized the balance quarter rupee on himself – purchased snacks and ate it. On learning this, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. asked that student to return the money saying, "it is wrong to use the common fund of students for yourself". The class leader became angry and abused the boy M.G.R. The boy M.G.R. could not tolerate this and slapped the class leader.

The issue went to the class teacher for mediation. M.G.R. said: 'It was wrong on my part to have slapped the class leader. Pardon me". The teacher patted M.G.R. and was surprised to see in the boy M.G.R. the discernment that it was wrong to covet others' belongings, the courage to confront that mistake and the responsibility to apologise if one was on the wrong. He changed the class leader immediately and made the M.G.R., class leader.

Later, in his political life also, a similar incident took place. He was expelled from the party for asking for the accounts of the party. Puratchi Thalaivar's quality of confronting the wrong, you all know, changed the fate of Tamil Nadu in later days. That quality made him the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He remained a principled man whatever the changes that happened around him.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had a better understanding of Puratchi Thalaivar's qualities and policies. That was why Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, after becoming the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu as the political heir of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., gave greater importance to delta Districts and framed schemes.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave a greater importance to the Cauvery water issue,

argued in Courts and won her point. Consistent efforts put in by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma resulted in the publication of the final orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the Central Government's gazette and thereby got us the rights on that river waters.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma liked touring delta Districts the most during her tours, she spoke candidly to the delta District people.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's speech at a public meeting in this same Tiruvarur on 08.03.2003 became historic. There was a greater turn out of women than men in that meeting. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was happy and exuberant. She spoke emotionally. "The history of women leaders of the world reveals that they were all either daughters or wives of kings. In democratic Countries, they were always either wives or daughters of great leaders – President or Prime Minister. Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, the present queen Elizabeth, all belong to royal families. They could rule the Country because they were of royal lineage. As for the Asian continent, Sirimavo Bandaranayake, Benazir Bhutto, Annai Indira Gandhi, Bangladesh rulers Khaleda Zia, Sheikh Hasina, could come to those posts because they were either wife or daughter of the respective leaders. Without any such background, any such support and any lineage to boast, I am Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today. This shows that women in Tamil Nadu can achieve anything". She concluded the speech, saying: "Amidst innumerable problems, our Government is implementing developmental plans. Sometimes even Nature tests us. Sometimes, men create these difficulties. But whatever be the difficulties and hurdles, we don't hesitate. We don't fear anyone. I want to tell this to my beloved Tamil Nadu people". Today, Amma's Government functions with the spirit of that speech of Hon'ble Amma.

Though small, Tiruvarur remains an excellent and lofty District. Hon'ble Amma took minute care and gave many schemes to the District so that it should go up higher and higher. In line with Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Amma Government following her path, has designed many new schemes for the District and is implementing them. In a short period after assuming office, this Government has inaugurated many schemes and laid foundation for new schemes. Due to time constraint, I am mentioning only a few of them.

Drought relief to an extent of Rs.161.22 crore has been distributed to 1,33,361 farmers whose crop yields have been affected.

A "Kuruvai Package Scheme" was announced by this Government to safeguard the livelihood of delta farmers.

Under the Kudimaramathu scheme, 72 works are being implemented in Tiruvarur District at a cost of Rs.5.92 crore.

Laptops numbering 11,744 valued at Rs.4,99,01,620 were distributed to school students at no cost.

Construction of a flyover has been taken up at a cost of Rs.29.19 crore at the Vaiyakalathur railway level crossing.

Two power sub-stations have been set up at a cost of Rs.12 crore.

A new memorial has been set up for Manu Needhi Chozhan at Tiruvarur.

We promise that we will implement speedily all the schemes needed for this District as desired by Hon'ble Amma.

Twelve new schemes completed at a cost of Rs.37.74 crore have been declared open today. They include an integrated agriculture expansion centre involving various Departments inclusive of Agriculture, Co-operation, Police and Technical Education ones, Government Student Hostel, Bridge, Office Buildings of Co-operative Societies, Office Building for Reserve Police, All Women Police station and Government Polytechnic. Welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.281.74 crore have also been distributed today to 35,918 persons.

I am happy and proud that people of Tiruvarur are celebrating the centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. as if they are doing it to their own son, brother, or father.

The Party (AIADMK) has the capacity to turn even a commoner into a historic figure. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi was powerful. If those brought up by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi are loyal to the party till the last, the party will remain firmly established in this soil for another 100 years. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

A saint was living in a forest. There was a cat with him, helping him. The cat had not ventured out of the Ashram. Both were mutually affectionate.

One day, the cat saw a dog in the forest for the first time. As the dog was larger in size, the cat, fear-struck, went straight to the saint and lamented what was the use to remain with him even though he had occult powers. "This dog is larger than me and more powerful than me. Hence, please change me into a dog", it pleaded. The saint changed it into a dog. The cat was happy. A few days later, the cat, now changed into a dog, saw a tiger. It was surprised and at the same time developed a fear. Again, it went

to the saint and said it would be better if it was changed into a tiger. The saint obliged. One day, the tiger turned cat saw a lion and again pleaded with the saint to change it into a lion. The saint complied. "Hereafter, I am the king of the forest; none can challenge me", the cat in the form of lion thought and went about the forest with conceit. Later, the cat in the garb of lion saw a strange eight footed large animal 'Sarabam'. At its sight, all animals cowered. The cat in the lion's garb, overtaken by fear, ran to the saint and said: "O! Guru!, This is my final wish. Change me into that 'Sarabam'. I will safeguard this forest". The saint converted the cat turned lion into a Sarabam. That was it. The cat turned Sarabam went round the forest with a overbearing gait. It was happy to see all other animals were afraid of it.

One day, a thought flashed through its mind. This saint could convert some other animal also as 'Sarabam' and that would spell danger to me. If there should be no other competitor to me in this forest, the best way was to do away with the saint. So with a murderous rage, it went towards the saint.

The saint with his occult powers understood the evil design of the cat in Sarabam form and told the cat: "Mentally, you remain a cat even if I change you into the form of different animals" and he changed the Sarabam animal back into a cat. The cat tugged its tail and went to a corner of the Ashram.

The saint in this story, I wish to tell, is All India Anna DMK. I will leave it to you to decide who the cat is. I will also tell that this cat's fate will overtake those who cast a slur on the party which has fostered them so long. The party cadre should keep this in mind and take a pledge on this day to fulfill the desires of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and the plans of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma by working unitedly.

During her rule, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented many schemes for the farmers. Amma's Government, the successor Government is also implementing many schemes to them. One of those schemes is the wonderful 'kudimaramathu' scheme. In the first phase, the Hon'ble Amma's Government implemented the scheme with farmers' participation by allotting Rs.100 crore to dredge 1,519 lakes. The scheme is about to be completed. The Government has permitted the farmers to carry away free of cost the dredged sediments so that they can apply it as fertilizer in fields and gardens, realize greater production and profit. It is Amma's Government that has created this situation.

The dredging of water bodies is a long pending demand of the farmers. By de-silting the tank, the storage capacity of the tank increases and farmers too get the sediments required for their fields. Through the increased storage capacity of tanks and lakes, the rain water during monsoon seasons can be stored fully; the ground water also gets re-charged for exploitation by farmers during times of drought. The Government accepted a demand from farmers for the expansion of the scheme and it is proposed to dredge 2,065 lakes at a cost of Rs.300 crore. It is only in Amma's Government that about 7,879 godowns have

been constructed and declared open for storing farmers' produce and crop varieties. The godowns can protect the farmers from resorting to distress sale during times of market slumps.

As this District is agriculture based, necessary crop loans are issued to farmers. The crop loan all over the state is Rs.7,000 crore. The Government has not put any ceiling for raising crop loan. Hence, it has captured the premier place in agricultural production in India. With a production of three lakh tonnes of foodgrains, Tamil Nadu keeps up that prime position for five years continuously. Tamil Nadu has bagged the Central Government's Krish Karman Award for four years, the only State in the Country to achieve this feat.

A case is pending in the Supreme Court on the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board. To safeguard the interests of farmers, Amma's Government will continue to fight and will win.

Likewise, Amma's Government has brought about a revolution in education. During Hon'ble Amma's regime, the Government issued appointment orders to more than 20,000 teachers at the same time and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma distributed the orders in the presence of all the teachers in the State by summoning them to Chennai. By filling up the vacant posts, a revolution was brought about.

In 2011, when Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the Chief Ministership, the growth in higher education was 21 per cent. From 2006 to 2011, during the DMK regime, only 21 persons in every 100 went for higher education. Educational incentives and welfare schemes given by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, pushed up this percentage, to 44.3 today, creating a revolution in higher education. For economic development, education is important and Amma's Government is giving that education.

In the last 6 years, Amma's Government has started 65 colleges. Private colleges charge high fees and for the poor and the oppressed classes, they are mostly out of reach. With great foresight, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma opened 65 colleges so that the poor could also get education on par with those with means.

For school students, footwear, school uniform, text books, note book and school

bags are given free of cost. It was Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who gave bicycles to students so that distance would not become a hurdle for them to get education. As Puratchi Thalaivi gave so many schemes, I am proud to say, that Tamil Nadu is rated as an excellent state in education today. The entire credit goes to Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

To help hut dwellers in Town Panchayat areas construct own houses, the Central and State Governments jointly give Rs.2.10 lakh as subsidy. The Amma's Government is implementing this scheme.

When I met Hon'ble Prime Minister, I sought assistance for construction of more houses in Tamil Nadu. Laughing, he assured he would give more assistance. Recently he came to Rameswaram. Speaking at a public meeting there, he said he would give any number of lakh of houses to Tamil Nadu. Some people criticize us, saying they often go to Delhi, meet Prime Minister but what schemes have they brought to the State. Because, we frequently meet the Prime Minister of India at Delhi, this assurance of any number of houses to the State has come from him. The Government has taken a decision to participate in the subsidy scheme of Rs.2.10 lakh to the poor in Town Panchayat areas to construct own houses and it is in a position to give its share of the subsidy.

Likewise, power subsidy to weavers. Amma's Government is giving an abundant number of schemes.

Many people go on saying that this Government should be dismissed somehow. They have mounted a false propaganda. People have benefited out of the various schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma. In the same way, Amma's Government has designed many schemes in the last six months and is implementing them. All the promises made by Puratchi Thalaivi during the elections, are being redeemed by Amma Government. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s dreams were carried out by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We have taken up the works Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has left behind.

Law and order is excellent in Tamil Nadu today. In the whole of India, law and order is good only in Tamil Nadu. Public Health and Education are also excellent in Tamil Nadu.

After Amma's Government took over, a severe drought, not witnessed in the last 140 years, has hit the State. Even Mettur dam has dried up. We could not give water to Tiruvarur farmers for irrigation. Despite such a drought, Amma's Government has seen to it that prices do not shoot up.

Likewise, Government is providing job opportunities to people. Relief assistance is being disbursed to affected farmers. Amma's Government is paying insurance premium for farmers. Your District Minister Thiru. Kamaraj has placed many demands. By way of implementing his demands, I make a few announcement now on behalf of the Government.

Tiruvarur District - Announcements:

Valangaiman and Haridwaramangalam Police Stations in Valangaiman Taluk will be transferred from Thanjavur District Police Range to Tiruvarur District Police Range.

Valangaiman and Alangudi offices of the Electricity Board will be shifted from the Thanjavur Electricity Distribution Circle and annexed to the Tiruvarur Electricity Distribution Circle.

A 110 KV electricity sub-station will be set up at Savalakaran Village in Mannargudi Taluk.

With new infrastructure facilities, the Kudavasal Bus stand will be upgraded.

A new bridge across Chola choodamani river and a ring road will be laid to link the Kumbakonam road via., Kudavasal Union Manaparavai-Kudavasal Town Panchayat Aeroornthawadi.

A new bridge across Bamini river will be constructed to link Mannargudi Municipality and Karthanadhapuram.

Your District Minister Thiru. Ramarajan requested that more check dams should be constructed in these areas to re-charge the ground water and that steps should be taken to conserve rain water in rain water odais through construction of check dams for irrigation purposes. Amma's Government will examine his request. As for his other request that a new arts and science college should be started at Kudavasal, I am happy to say that sanction has been granted to start the college in this year itself and that the college has started functioning. In deference to the requests of Thiru. Ramarajan and Thiru. Gopal, MP, I am happy to state that the new college will be named as Dr.Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Government Arts and Science College.

I wish to point out, in this hour, that Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is recording one achievement after another. I thank once again, the son of this soil, the District President Thiru. Kamaraj for organizing this function so well. I am proud to say that this function does not look like Bharatha Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R's centenary celebrations but like that of a State conference. In whichever direction we look, we see an ocean of people. I thank all those who have come from even hamlets to make the centenary celebrations of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. a grand event.

I convey my appreciation and good wishes to party representatives and cadre who have worked unitedly for this function, to the general public, Government staff who have co-operated in many ways and the Police Department.

Yesterday was Ours! Today is Ours! Tomorrow will also be Ours!

Vazhga Anna Namam; Valarga Puratchi Thalaivar Pugazh; Thodarga Manbumigu Ammavin Aatchi.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Magnanimity that reached out to recipients, thy name is M.G.R.

The philanthropic nature of former Chief Minister late M.G.Ramachandran is well known and he had been described as the Eighth Vallal along with Kadai Ezhu vallal of Sangam age. Be it drought or floods M.G.R was the first to come to the rescue of victims by donating liberally to the funds created by the State Government. Even after six decades his free distribution of rain coats to rickshaw pullers in Chennai was fondly remembered by those who had received the coats. In those days rain coats were considered luxury and only upper middle class people used to wear them during rains.

He displayed his concern for the poor and marginalized people on many occasions and he never sought publicity for his philanthropic attitude. One such occasion was during the Tirunelveli Assembly by Election in 1980's when he was the Chief Minister. Mr.R.M.Veerappan was the AIADMK's party candidate.

For the Election campaign the party organized three public meetings for M.G.R. to canvass for his party candidate. The first meeting was in Sankarnagar in Talayathur, the second was in Tirunelveli town and the third was in Melapayam in the outskirts of Tirunelveli Town. In the first two meetings an eighty year old woman made vain attempts to draw the attention of the M.G.R. (Chief Minister) by waving her hands and shouting Thalaiva, Thalaiva. Though she was occupying the first row in the crowd she could not draw the attention of M.G.R as the distance between the barricade and the dais was too long. Despite her failure in the first two meetings, she attended the Melapayam meeting where the distance between the crowd and the dais was comparatively less. Immediately after finishing the meeting, M.G.R. was stepping down from the dais. The old lady here also shouted thalaiva, thalaiva at a very high pitch and waved a petition. M.G.R. who saw the old lady asked her to come near him. The Lady managed to cross the barricades and met M.G.R. With tears running down her cheeks she narrated her sufferings to M.G.R.

M.G.R. after handing over her petition to his PA inserted his hands into his shirt pockets and took some notes. After confirming that they were only hundred rupee notes he handed over the same to the old lady without even counting them. He also instructed the officials to talk to the old woman and take action on her petition. Later the old lady told curious crowd that had gathered around her that there were 14 hundred rupee notes.

Subsidized sugar sought for all priority households

D.O. letter dated 18.08.2017 addressed by Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"I would like to bring to your kind notice that Government of India has restricted the subsidy at the rate of Rs.18.50 per kg of sugar to the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries only and also the scale of supply has been restricted to 1 kg per family per month.

In this regard, I wish to reiterate that the Priority Households (PHH) under the National Food Security Act, 2013 have been identified following very stringent guidelines, and they represent the most vulnerable sections of the society. Exclusion of such poor and vulnerable sections of the society from availing sugar at subsidized rate would lead to serious discontent amongst the public. Therefore, the coverage for sugar at subsidized rates may kindly be extended to all Priority Households (PHH).

The rate of subsidy i.e., Rs. 18.50 per kg was fixed in the year 2002, when the market rate of sugar was Rs.32/- per kg. Accordingly, the issue price at the fair price shop was fixed as Rs.13.50 with a view to distribute sugar under the Public Distribution System at no cost on the State Government. Now, the market rate of sugar has gone upto Rs.42 per kg and the State Government has all along borne this additional expenditure of approximately Rs.10 per kg. Therefore, the level of subsidy, which was fixed way back in 2002, may be revised atleast as Rs.28.50/- per kg of sugar.

The scale of supply has also been restricted to only 1 kg per family, which is very low keeping in view the average family size of approximately 4 persons in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been distributing sugar at the scale of 0.5 kg per person subject to a ceiling of 2 kg per card. It may not be desirable to bring down the current scale of supply among the poorest of the poor. Therefore, the present scale of supply may kindly be protected.

Sugar is one of the essential commodities being supplied in Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu on a regular basis. The average consumption of sugar per month in this State is 35,500 MT and the State Government has been bearing the entire financial burden, with huge drain on the State exchequer.

I request your kind intervention to extend the coverage of subsidized sugar to all priority households; enhance the subsidy from Rs.18.50 to atleast Rs.28.50 by taking into consideration the present market rate of sugar at Rs.42/- per kg; and assist the State Government in protecting the current scale of supply in the State".

Chief Minister to HRD Minister: Keep Tamil institute autonomous

D.O. letter dated 31.08.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Prakash Javadekar**,Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development.

"Thank you very much for your immediate response to my letter dated 12th July 2017.

I am glad that you have clarified that the Central Government's policy is to promote all Indian languages.

I would like to reiterate that the Government of Tamil Nadu have handed over 17 acres of land at Perumbakkam, Kancheepuram District for the construction of a permanent building for the Central Institute of Classical Tamil. Government of India have already sanctioned Rs.24 crore and the Central Public Works Department have already commenced the Civil works.

In the above circumstances, I request you to kindly drop any move to attach/affiliate this institute to the Central University, Thiruvarur or any other University and protect the autonomous character of the Institute.

It would be prudent to initiate steps to strengthen this Institute, so that it would graduate as a Centre of Research and Learning in Classical Tamil".

NEWS IN PICTURE

British High Commissioner to India Hon'ble Sir Dominic Asquith, Deputy High Commissioner, Chennai Thiru. Bharath Joshi, Deputy Head of Mission, Chennai Thiru. Isaac Howlings and South India British High Commissioner of Consumer Operations, Chennai, Fidula James paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the Secretariat on 07.08.2017. Chief Secretary to Government Dr. Girija Vaithiyanathan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Dept., Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Prohibition and Excise Dept., Dr. Niranjan Mardi I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Thiru. S. Krishnan I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Energy Thiru. Vikram Kapur I.A.S., Secretary (in charge), Public Department Tmt. Mythili K.Rajendran I.A.S. and other high Government officials were present.

Chief Minister congratulates Vice-President designate

Letter dated 05.08.2017 of addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Venkaiah Naidu**, Vice-President of India- Designate.

"I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations to you on your resounding victory in the election to the post of Vice-President of India.

I wish to convey to you my own felicitations and also those of the people of Tamil Nadu for a historic tenure as Vice- President of India".

News in Picture

In connection with the 146th Birth Anniversary of 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan' V.O. Chidambaranar on 05.09.2017, Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. D.Jayakumar (Fisheries and Personnel and Administrative Reforms), Thiru. P.Benjamin (Rural Industries), Thiru. K.Pandiarajan (Tamil Development and Tamil Culture), Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Books and Educational Services Corporation Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Secretary to the Department of Tamil Development and Information Thiru. R. Venkatesan I.A.S., and Director, Information and Public Relations Department Thiru. P. Shankar I.A.S., on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, paid floral tribute to a decorated portrait of Chidambaranar, placed near his statue at Rajaji Salai, Chennai.

Succour to victims of explosion in scrap dealer's shop

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 10.07.2017 to a call attention notice given by the DMK Member Thiru. K.N.Nehru regarding an explosion in a scrap dealer's shop at Pothamedupatti, Manapparai Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker,

I was extremely sad to hear the news that Thiru. Mariappan, son of P. Periasamy died on 29.06.2017 in an explosion that occurred at a scrap dealer's shop in Pothamedupatti area, Kannudayanpatti Village, Manapparai Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District. I conveyed my deep sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family and directed a grant of Rs.1 lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to the family of Thiru. Mariappan.

I have also ordered distribution of Rs.50,000/- each to Thiruvalargal Arulanandhu and Kanakaraj who suffered serious injuries in the incident and are being treated at a hospital and Rs.25,000/- to Thiru. Balasubramanian who suffered minor injuries, from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. All the three are undergoing treatment in a private hospital. I have directed the hospital officials and the District administration to give the injured the best treatment.

I wish to state that I have also directed the District administration and the Police Department to enquire into the explosion and take appropriate steps.

Expedite action of Government led to speedy payment of compensation to affected farmers

Mettur dam was not opened to let out water for irrigation on June 12 in 2016-2017 as the storage was low in the dam. However, a 'kuruvai special package scheme' was implemented, on the directions of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to take up kuruvai cultivation by using ground water, for safeguarding the livelihood of delta farmers. Through this, paddy was grown in 3.16 lakh acres in the kuruvai season last year and 5.02 lakh tonnes rice was produced.

As there was no sufficient rain in the beginning of the North-East Monsoon, in the interest of delta farmers, a 'samba special package' scheme was implemented on the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Through this, samba cultivation was undertaken in 11.92 lakh acres.

To safeguard the livelihood of farmers affected by crop loss, Government undertook serious efforts to implement, as per the orders of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the new crop insurance scheme in Tamil Nadu. Through this, crop in 31.85 lakh acres, cultivated by 15.37 lakh farmers in 31 Districts in the State, barring Chennai, was insured under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme. Tamil Nadu was one of the States which took up the insurance scheme in a major way.

Under the Prime Minister Insurance Scheme, the Districts in Tamil Nadu were divided into 3 groups and the insurance scheme is implemented through Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., New India Assurance General Insurance Company and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company.

Though the State Government's share in the premium payment rose several fold, compared to the previous years, the premium subsidy of Rs.440.18 crore was paid in time to the insurance companies in 2016-2017 in the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers.

The Tamil Nadu Government, on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, took speedy action to provide to the insurance companies within the stipulated time, yield details by quickly conducting crop harvest tests at the Village level through the Departments of Agriculture and Statistics so that farmers affected by crop loss could get the compensation fast. The Chief Minister also has been urging the Prime Minister on this.

The earnest efforts put in by Tamil Nadu Government to complete all the works under the Prime Minister Insurance Scheme resulted in the quick calculation of the compensation and steps were taken to distribute the compensation. The Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution on 24.04.2017. Till 21.06.2017, Rs. 1,066.12 crore has been approved of for 3,22,096 farmers.

Following this, a total of Rs.1,282.05 crore was obtained till 03.07.2017 from the insurance companies, on account of the persistent steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Government, for 4,10,491 farmers who had raised samba crop in 25 Districts but were affected by the drought. The amount is credited directly to the bank accounts of farmers.

Of this amount, Rs.120.33 crore is distributed by the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Corporation to 48,921 farmers in the eight Districts of Salem, Tiruppur, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Sivagangai, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur and Tiruvannamalai whose samba crops were affected, Rs.258.54 crore to 1,10,878 affected farmers in the six Districts of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and Virudhunagar through the New India Assurance General Insurance company and the balance of Rs.903.18 crore to 2,50,692 farmers in the 11 Districts of Ariyalur, Dindigul, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Karur, Madurai, Namakkal, Perambalur, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchi and Tiruvarur through the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd.

The Agriculture Department continues to press the insurance companies, on the orders of the Chief Minister, to quickly disburse the balance compensation amount to the paddy growers and the compensation for other crops.

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Grant for families of Banyan crash victims

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 12.07.2017 in the Legislative Assembly on giving compensation over deaths due to tree fall *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker,

I was greatly distressed to learn that two persons had died and one more was injured seriously when a part of a roadside Banyan tree crashed down on them while going on a two wheeler from their Village, Puthirankottai, Cheyyur Taluk, Kancheepuram District to Soonaampet on 11.07.2017. While Thiru. Murugan, son of Thiru. Kabali of that Village died on the spot, Thiru. Subramani, son of Thiru. Govindasamy died on way to hospital.

I conveyed my deep condolences and sympathy to their families and ordered a grant of Rs. 1 lakh each to their families from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

I have also sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, Rs.50,000/- to Thiru. Sudarsanam, son of Thiru. Dhandapani who was seriously injured in the accident and directed the District Administration to provide him the best of medical treatment.

Three new ITIs to be started at cost of Rs.28.61 crore

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 19.07.2017 under Rule 110 (English Translation).

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker,

To protect the interests and rights of labourers in Tamil Nadu, welfare schemes are implemented vigorously and social security laws are monitored firmly. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma brought in a welfare scheme for manual labourers working in the construction industry and set up a construction workers welfare board in 1994 for safeguarding their interests.

On behalf of the Amma Government that works in the path shown by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I am happy to announce the following schemes connected with labour welfare.

1. The assistance of Rs.15,000/- given to families of workers in the unorganized sector who die due to natural causes, will be increased to Rs.20,000/- and funeral expenses, from Rs.2,000/- to Rs.5,000/-.

2. For the benefit of students from the economically backward families and for increasing skilled manpower resources, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are functioning in different places. At present, there are 85 ITIs in the State. In the current year, 3 new ITIs with an intake of 200 students in each and with hostel facilities will be started at a cost of Rs.28.61 crore. They will be located

at Vaniyambadi in Vellore District to cater to the needs of students in Vaniyambadi, Anaicut, Gudiyatham, Alangayam, and Jolarpettai; at Gobichettipalayam in Erode District to benefit the students in Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Nambiyur, Andhiyur, Bhavanisagar, and Thalavadi; and in Kottur in Tiruvarur District to meet the needs of students in Tiruthuraipoondi, Muthupettai, Mannargudi, Tiruvarur and in Sethubavachathram and Peravurani areas in Thanjavur District.

3. The Employees State Insurance Scheme is a comprehensive social security scheme. Under this scheme, an employee and his family is eligible for all medical facilities from day one of joining the job in an institution that has facility for insurance. There are 216 employees State insurance corporation dispensaries and 10 hospitals with a bed strength of 2,093 in the State. I am happy to inform that 10 more such dispensaries will be opened in the current year at a cost of Rs.12.14 crore at Oddanchathram, Nelliyalam, Kallakurichi, Chidambaram, Bhavani, Coonoor, Keezhgunda (Ooty), Pappireddipatti, Aravakurichi and Budalur to benefit 31,699 workers.

DEPARTMENT OF TAMIL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION

On behalf of the Department of Tamil Development and Information, I am happy to make the following announcements:

1. A Tamil Culture Heritage Museum will be established at the World Tamil Sangam in Madurai at a cost of Rs.50 crore to bring out the glory of the cultural heritage of Tamils. For this, Rs. 15 crore will be allotted, in the first phase, in the current year.

2. To oppose British imperialism, Sinthanai Sirpi Singaravelar (18.02.1860 - 11.02.1946) gave up his profession as an advocate; he championed the cause of labour and participated in many agitations for their welfare; he was the Father of Communist Movement in India and a pioneer for Indian Trade Unionism; a great Tamil scholar in science, he stressed the view that public assets should be utilized for people's welfare and also emphasized that communism is compatible to humanism.

A 'Singaravelar Award' will be instituted and presented on behalf of the Department of Tamil Development, every year along with Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards, to an author who writes the best book on science in Tamil on the lines of Singaravelar or the best crusader for community development, policies of equality and for the welfare of workers. The awardee will be honoured with ponnadai, a cash of Rs. 1 lakh, a one sovereign gold medal and a citation.

3. Newsmen are the fourth pillar of democracy. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was greatly interested in seeing newsmen, who work round the clock, lead a peaceful life after retirement. That is why, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, raised their monthly pension from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.8,000/- in 2011 and the family pension to their families from Rs.2,500/- to Rs.4,750/-. This Amma Government, that follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I am happy to announce, will increase their pension from Rs.8,000/- to Rs.10,000/-

and the family pension to their families from Rs.4,750/- to Rs.5,000/-, taking into account the present economic condition and the welfare of newsmen.

TOURISM, CULTURE AND HR & CE DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker,

After assuming the responsibility of governance in 2011, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, started the scheme of giving subsidy to Hindus who undertake pilgrimage to Manasarovar in China and to Muktinath in Nepal.

1. As there is good response to these two pilgrimages in Tamil Nadu, the number of beneficiaries for the subsidy will be incased from 500 to 1,000. In the current year, this will entail an additional expenditure of Rs.1.25 crore to Government.

2. For the renovation of temples in Adi Dravidar and Tribals residential areas, not under the control of the HR & CE Department, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was giving Rs. 1 lakh per temple. An announcement was made in the 2017-2018 Budget that the number of such beneficiary temples will be increased from 500 to 1,000.

As the demand for this scheme is overwhelming in rural areas, particularly in the Adi Dravidar/Tribes colonies, the number of such beneficiary temples will be increased to 2,000. I am happy to announce that in the current year Rs.20 crore will be utilized from the temple funds for this.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Hon'ble Speaker,

I am happy to make the following announcement, on behalf of this Government, that follows the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for further uplifting of the standard of living of Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes.

There are 1,324 hostels for Adi Dravidars, 42 for Tribes and 314 Tribes Residential schools in the State. The many steps taken by Tamil Nadu Government have considerably reduced the phenomenon of drop outs. As a follow up, I am happy to inform that own buildings will be constructed for 11 Adi Dravidar hostels, presently functioning in rented buildings, in the current year at a cost of Rs.13.87 crore.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, GROWTH AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

On behalf of the Government, that functions in the path shown by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I am extremely happy to make the following announcements in this House:

1. The State Government has approved in principle the creation of three corridors in the second phase of the metro rail project for a total length of 107.55 km at a cost of Rs.85,407 crore and has sent the proposal for the central Government's approval and finance. The corridors will be from Madhavaram to Siruseri (45.77 km), from the CMBT terminal to Light house (17.12 km) and from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur (44.66 km).

The Light House-CMBT corridor, the 4th one, was originally planned to run via., Vadapalani. Taking into account the increasing traffic congestion in Arcot Road in Virugambakkam and Valasaravakkam areas, the State Government has decided to extend the corridor to Poonamallee as Light House-Poonamallee track via., Vadapalani and Porur. The Metro Rail company will take up the preparation of a supplementary detailed project report for this. The implementation of this scheme, will hike the cost by Rs.3,850 crore.

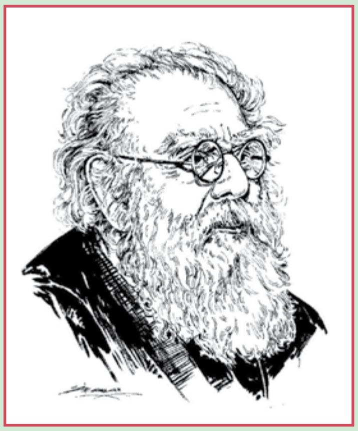
2. In the footsteps of Chennai, a metro rail project will be implemented in Coimbatore Metro for easing the increasing traffic congestion there. The Chennai Metro Rail company will undertake the task of preparing a detailed feasibililty/project report. Funds for the project will be obtained through the Central Government from KfW institution, the German Government-owned Development Bank.

3. A scheme will be formulated, under the State Equalisation Development Fund project, for improving the living standards of the most backward tribals residing in mountainous and forest areas. The scheme will aim at removing disparities in the provision of basic facilities, road and transport facilities to link hamlets with small population, bio-diversity protection, greening of annihilated/less fertile forest areas, prevention of soil erosion and improving water availability, creating necessary infrastructure facilities after developing agriculture and agro-based industries and improving environmental-based education and water resources. The scheme will be implemented by the State Planning Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hunting and planned smuggling have been considerably prevented in the interiors of forest and in the reserve forest areas due to the organization of Preventive Camps. I am happy to inform that the monthly consolidated pay given to the 908 security personnel engaged in this difficult work of preventing animal poaching will be increased from Rs.6,750/- to Rs.10,000/-.



- Reforms should be so brought about as to teach people good conduct, to enlarge knowledge, to cultivate compassion and charity to living beings, and to infuse in them a groaning awareness of equality and self-respect.
- Care should be taken first of all in inculcating discipline among pupils at school. That alone is important. Next only is education. How to conduct oneself properly is what should be taught first. Good conduct alone makes one a cultured man in later life.

-Thanthai Periyar

Hike in salary of legislators, constituency growth fund also up

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Legislative Assembly on 19.07.2017 on pay hike to MLAs
(English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker,

Hon'ble Members Thiru. Pandi, Thiru. Muthukumaran and Thiru. Sakthivel of Congress Party and many other members, former Assembly/Council Members have given representations for raising members salary, pension and Constituency allowance. I make an announcement in that respect.

Hon'ble Speaker,

The monthly salary of the Legislative Assembly member will be increased from Rs.8,000/- to Rs.30,000/-. Their other allowances (per month) will be increased as follows: Compensatory allowance from Rs. 7,000/- to Rs.10,000/-; Telephone allowance from Rs.5,000/- to Rs. 7,500/; Constituency allowance from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/-; Consolidated allowance from Rs. 2,500/- to Rs.5,000/- and Vehicle allowance from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.25,000/-.

The Postal allowance will continue to be at Rs.2,500/-.

After effecting this hike – Rs.50,000/- – the monthly take home pay and allowances of MLAs will be Rs.1,05,000/- from the present Rs.55,000/-.

The compensatory allowance, sundry expenditure allowance and constituency allowance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly will be increased by Rs.15,000/-, Rs.10,000/- and Rs.25,000/- respectively.

Likewise, for the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Leader of the Opposition and Government Chief Whip, the compensatory allowance will be increased by Rs.15,000/-, sundry expenditure allowance by Rs.7,500/- and the constituency allowance by Rs.25,000/-

Hon'ble Speaker,

Monthly pension for the ex-MLAs/MLCs will be increased from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.20,000/-; family pension will be increased to Rs.10,000/- on the norm that it should be 50 per cent of the pension. Considering the age of the pensioner ex-MLA/ MLC , the amount given towards medical expenses to them will be increased from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.25,000/- per year.

Hon'ble Members of the Assembly continue to press for an increase in their constituency development fund.

From 2017-2018, the constituency development fund will be increased from the present Rs.2 crore to Rs.2.50 crore. While thanking you for applauding this Government which is functioning in the path shown by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I wish to state this increased constituency development fund will be utilized for laying roads, drainage, setting up rest rooms, Primary Health Centres, milk co-operative societies and construction of buildings for fair price shops, additional buildings for schools, veterinary dispensaries and the like.

Members also press for effecting an increase in the daily allowance of the watch and ward staff of the Assembly. I am happy to announce that the daily allowance for the head constable and constables will be increased from Rs.50/- to Rs.100/- and for those in the rank of sub-inspector from Rs.55/- to Rs.110/-.

‘Frequent arrests and seizures by Sri Lanka demoralise fishermen’

D.O. letter dated 13.07.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

“I am constrained to bring to your notice the unabated incidents of apprehension of our fishermen in the Palk Bay by the Sri Lankan Navy. In this incident, 7 fishermen in two mechanized fishing boats who ventured into sea for fishing from Mandapam fishing base of Ramanathapuram District, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 12.07.2017 and taken to Kangesanthurai in Sri Lanka.

The life of our fishermen who fish in their traditional waters of Palk Bay has been made miserable by the Sri Lankan Navy by not allowing them to fish peacefully. Almost every fishing voyage of the fishermen is disrupted with repeated incidents of apprehension or harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy. **Such continuing incidents of apprehensions of the traditional fishermen are seen as a deliberate attempt to derail the efforts to find a permanent solution through diplomatic efforts of Government of India. The frequent arrests of the fishermen and impounding of their boats is sending a highly demoralizing message to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.** A sense of vulnerability and insecurity prevails in all the coastal Villages of the five coastal Districts of Palk Bay in Tamil Nadu.

My revered leader Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly reiterated that it is the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreement executed in 1974, that has snatched away the fishing rights enjoyed by our fishermen in their traditional fishing grounds. The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly reiterates the need to restore the traditional fishing rights of our fishermen in the Palk Bay by annulling the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1974 as the constitutional validity of this agreement has been challenged on extremely valid and legal grounds in the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008 by our revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and impleaded by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

A firm, clear, unequivocal and unambiguous message should be sent out by the Government of India to the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that its hostile attitude is reversed and the livelihood of the poor and innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu fishing in their traditional waters is protected.

I once again exhort you to kindly take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the 60 fishermen of Tamil Nadu and 146 fishing boats currently in Sri Lankan’s custody including the 7 fishermen and their two boats apprehended on 12.07.2017”.

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Stringent action being taken against sale of banned intoxicating articles

Explanation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Legislative Assembly on 19.07.2017, on the action taken by the Departments of Police and Food Safety regarding the banned articles ganja, tobacco, gutkha, paan masala and hans in the State and in Chennai city (*English Translation*).

Hon'ble Speaker,

Producers of the banned articles, ganja, jardha, paan masala, mava, gutkha and hans, their stockists and distributors, retailers, those engaged in the trade of intoxicating drugs like ganja and smugglers are constantly monitored and those caught in surprise raids are arrested and further action is taken against them.

In 2013, 96 cases were registered in this connection, 98 persons were arrested and 131 kg of intoxicating articles worth Rs.28,445/- were seized; in 2014, 278 cases were registered, 318 persons arrested and 1,473 kg of articles worth Rs. 2,50,600/- were seized; in 2015, 716 cases were registered, 744 persons were arrested, 5,196 kg of articles worth Rs.18,53, 131/- were seized; in 2016, 10,419 cases were registered, 398 persons arrested and 42,386 kg of articles worth Rs.41,44,407/- were seized; this year (till 30.06.2017), 7,587 cases were registered, 7,404 persons arrested and 65,766 kg of intoxicating articles worth Rs.31,63,159/- were confiscated from them.

From 2013, a total of 19,096 cases were registered and 17,962 persons were arrested in connection with the manufacture, sale and smuggling of intoxicants and 1,14,953 kg of intoxicating articles worth Rs.94,39,742 were confiscated from them. Of the 19,096 cases registered, 12,966 ended in conviction.

In important cities in the State, particularly shops near schools/ colleges are frequently checked by the local Police and cases are registered and severe action is taken against those engaged in the trade of banned tobacco/ banned intoxicating articles.

Following the Supreme Court judgment, the Tamil Nadu Government gazetted its order on 23.05.2013, banning the production, stocking and selling of chewing tobacco articles like gutkha and pan masala which have tobacco and nicotine as ingredients with the view of preventing occurrence of mouth cancer and various other types of cancer caused by tobacco.

For the effective implementation of the ban order, monitoring committees have been set up, headed by respective District collectors and with members drawn from the various Departments. As for Chennai city, the Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation will head the committee.

As a result of the steps taken by the Department of Food Safety in co-ordination with the monitoring committees, more than 546 tonnes of gutkha, pan masala and other articles worth Rs.15.47 crore were confiscated between June 2013 and May 2017 and destroyed completely. As a follow up action, 48 cases were registered and judgment obtained in 22 of them. More than Rs.6 lakh have been collected as fine.

The ban on gutkha, pan masala along with chewing tobacco has been extended for one more year from 23.05.2017.

I wish to inform the Hon'ble member through you that 35,919 shops, functioning near 13,916 schools and colleges were inspected in 2016-2017 with the intention of preventing sale of goods like pan masala and intoxicating chocolate, and sale of intoxicating chocolate and other articles was detected in 6,880 shops; banned 38 articles and 71 other goods were subjected to tests and 19 of them were found to be injurious to health.

As far as Hon'ble Amma's Government is concerned, these intoxicating articles should not be sold anywhere. Through you, I wish to inform the leader of the Congress Legislative party that steps for such vigilant action, are being taken.

NEWS IN PICTURE

By way of honouring the memory of freedom fighter 'Dheeran Chinnamalai', Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** sprinkled flower petals on a portrait of Dheeran Chinnamalai placed near his statue at the Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai on 03.08.2017. Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Chief Secretary to Government, Government High Officials and members of the general public in good numbers participated.

'Only solution to fishermen's agonies is getting Katchatheevu back'

D.O. letter dated 22.07.2017 by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"I write this with a deep sense of disquiet to bring it to your kind notice two recent incidents of apprehension of our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy which continues its undeterred act of terrorising innocent and poor fishermen of Tamil Nadu by apprehending them in their traditional waters while pursuing their livelihood.

In the first incident, 4 fishermen in a traditional fishing boat "Vallam" belonging to Ramanathapuram District, who ventured into sea for fishing from Muthanenthal fishing base in Pudukkottai District, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 16.07.2017 and taken to Kangesanthurai in Sri Lanka. **The heightened intolerance of Sri Lankan Navy can be seen from the fact that even the traditional crafts (vallam boats) engaged in fishing using gill nets are being apprehended in the Palk Bay waters where these fishermen have been fishing for centuries.**

In another incident, one mechanised fishing boat with 8 fishermen on board that set out for fishing from Nagapattinam fishing base has been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 21.07.2017 and taken to Kangesanthurai in Sri Lanka.

In spite of all continuing adversities created by the Sri Lankan Navy, our fishermen are in an accommodative frame of mind to find an amicable and practicable solution to this sensitive livelihood issue that has arisen out of the ill-advised agreement between India and Sri Lanka. However, the Sri Lankan Government keeps on irritating our fishermen with continuing apprehension of the boats and arrest of the fishermen. **The only solution to this, on a permanent basis, is the restoration of Katchatheevu island back to India and the redrawal of the International Maritime Boundary Line, thereby restoring back the traditional fishing grounds of our fishermen enabling them to pursue their livelihood in a peaceful manner**.

I request you to kindly use all diplomatic channels available with the Government of India to find a permanent solution to this longstanding issue.

I also request you to secure the immediate release of 72 fishermen and 148 fishing boats including 12 fishermen and 2 fishing boats arrested on 16.07.2017 and 21.07.2017, at the earliest".

Chief Minister thanks Prime Minister for release of 75 fishermen, 42 boats

D.O. letter dated 29.07.2017 addressed by Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

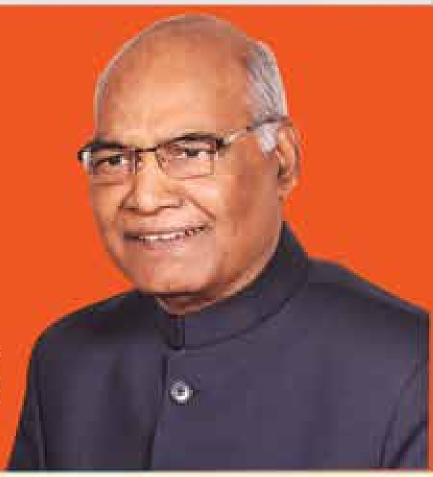
"In response to the repeated requests from the Government of Tamil Nadu, commencing with the letters from our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we are happy to learn that the **Sri Lankan Government has ordered the release of 42 fishing boats and 75 Tamil Nadu fishermen who were languishing in Sri Lankan Jails. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I thank you for your personal intervention and sincere efforts which have enabled the release of the fishermen and the boats.**

In addition to the letters that our revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and I had written to you, during our meeting in Rameswaram on 27.07.2017, I had specifically requested to take all possible efforts to release our fishermen and boats from the Sri Lankan custody. Even before your departure from Tamil Nadu on 27.07.2017,

the Government of Tamil Nadu received a communication from Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India regarding the decision of Government of Sri Lanka to release 42 fishing boats belonging to the fisherman of Tamil Nadu. It is now widely reported in a section of the media that the Sri Lankan Courts have ordered the release of all 75 Tamil Nadu fishermen from Sri Lankan custody. I thank you for this prompt action.

I also request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of External Affairs to secure the release of the remaining 107 fishing boats, which continue to languish in Sri Lankan custody to ensure that there is adequate reciprocity to the various measures taken by the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu to resolve the vexatious issue."

Chief Minister conveys congrats to President



Text of the letter of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu congratulating Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India – Designate on his victory in the President Election.

"I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations to you on your resounding victory in the election to the post of President of India.

I wish to convey to you my own felicitations and also those of the people of Tamil Nadu for a historic tenure in Rashtrapati Bhavan".

Sri Lanka's seizure strategy renders fishing gear unusable, worthless

D.O. letter dated 06.07.2017 addressed by **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"This is to bring to your kind notice the continuing unabated, unlawful apprehension of our fishermen. It has been reported that 8 fishermen in two mechanized fishing boats who set out for fishing from Kottaipattinam and Jegathapattinam fishing bases in Pudukottai District, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy, in the late hours of 05.07.2017 and were taken to Kangesanthurai, Sri Lanka. In another incident,4 fishermen in a mechanized fishing boat who set out for fishing from Kottaipattinam fishing base in Pudukottai District were attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 05.07.2017. During this attack, the Sri Lankan Naval boat No.42 reportedly rammed the mechanized fishing boat and the said boat sunk in the sea. The fishermen who were left at the mercy of the sea were rescued by the fellow fishermen.

The right of livelihood of our fishermen, who have historically and traditionally fished in the Palk Bay, continues to be infringed upon by the Sri Lankan Government. The historical rights of Indian fishermen were simply signed away as part of the ill advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976, which also unilaterally ceded Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka without foresight or concern for the plight of our innocent fishermen. Our Revered Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma through her various letters addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister had rightly highlighted that these agreements lack Constitutional and legal sanctity. The legal validity of these agreements had been challenged by our Revered Leader and is a subject matter of a writ petition pending before the Supreme Court of India. In this context, the Government of Tamil Nadu continues to reiterate that the issue of Katchatheevu and consequently of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) cannot be treated as settled.

The continued harassment of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Government needs to be stopped at once. The right of livelihood of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu in the Palk Bay cannot be compromised. I request the Government of India to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to refrain from its reported attempts to ruin the livelihood of poor Indian fishermen of Tamil Nadu by curtailing access to their traditional waters of Palk Bay. Due respect must be accorded to the progress made during this year after the Joint Working Group Meetings.

The Sri Lankan Government is adopting a callous and deliberate strategy to ensure destruction of the boats and gear which are the primary means of livelihood of our fishermen. The long duration of impoundment and lack of care would render the fishing boats and gear unusable and worthless. This strategy of the Sri Lankan Government is depriving our fishermen of their livelihood.

I once again urge your urgent intervention to secure the release of the 50 fishermen and 143 fishing boats currently in Sri Lankan custody including the 8 fishermen and 2 fishing boats, apprehended on 05.07.2017. I look forward to an early and decisive action to resolve this long standing issue".

'Attack, en masse arrest comes as rude shock to affected fishermen'

D.O. letter dated 08.08.2017 addressed by ***Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami****, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to* ***Shri Narendra Modi****, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.*

"I wish to bring your kind attention to yet another instance of high-handedness of Sri Lankan Navy against the Indian fishermen pursuing their peaceful fishing operations in their traditional Palk Bay fishing waters. In a series of incidents that occurred on the night of 07.08.2017, the Sri Lankan Navy terrorized our fishermen by ramming their boats with armoured Naval vessels and en masse arrested 49 fishermen in 12 fishing boats.

I am informed that 41 fishermen onboard 10 mechanised fishing boats from Pudukkottai District of Tamil Nadu, came under attack of the Sri Lankan Navy in the late hours of 07.08.2017, while they were engaged in fishing in their traditional fishing waters. A Sri Lankan Naval vessel reportedly hit two fishing boats and 7 fishermen onboard the two fishing boats were thrown into the sea. The Sri Lankan Navy subsequently apprehended 10 boats and 41 fishermen, including the 7 fishermen who were thrown into the sea.

In another incident, 8 fishermen in two mechanised fishing boats, who set sail for fishing from Mandapam fishing base of Ramanathapuram District on 07.08.2017, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 08.08.2017.

I have frequently brought to your kind notice the repeated instances of abduction and apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu bordering the Palk Bay by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy's completely unwarranted display of military might against poor innocent Indian fishermen ramming their flimsy boats with its Naval vessels and endangering lives of non-combatant is totally unacceptable. **The attack on and apprehension of our fishermen en masse has come as rude shock at a time when the process of conversion of trawling boats to long-liners has been kick-started in your presence at Rameswaram recently.** It is a sharp escalation and a needless provocation. The attack and apprehensions clearly point to the scant regard on the Sri Lankan side for the efforts by the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu to resolve the fishing issues peacefully. This incident further underscores what my late leader Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had often stated that only 'the retrieval of Katchatheevu' can bring a lasting solution to this vexatious issue.

I already had sought that a strong diplomatic offensive should be launched to prevent the recurrence of incidents of attacks on and arrests of our fishermen and apprehension of their boats in order to pave the way for finding solution through a peaceful dialogue process.

I sincerely urge you to take up this matter personally with the highest authorities in Sri Lanka to register our strongest disapproval of the mis-adventure of the Sri Lankan Navy in the mid-seas gravely endangering the lives of our fishermen. I also request you to direct the Ministry of External Affairs to secure the immediate release of 64 fishermen and 125 boats including the 49 fishermen and their 12 mechanised fishing boats apprehended in the early hours of 08.08.2017.